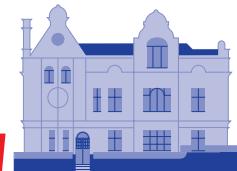


OSWESTRY & BORDER CHRONICLE

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2017

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TOP WHERE SOLD

TOUGHER SPEED RULES WELCOMED

Report by Naomi Penrose

TOUGH new laws which have hiked speeding penalties up to 175 per cent of drivers' wages have been welcomed by safety campaigners.

Dot Basham, who is calling for a permanent speed camera on St Martins Road in Gobowen near Oswestry, said she believes the stricter fining system, which has come into force this week, will make motorists think twice about speeding.

She said: "I welcome the new fines, I think they will stop and make motorists think about the speed they're travelling at because the fines are hefty. These fines will hit people where it hurts them the most, in the pocket."

"In Gobowen speeding is a long-standing problem, and it isn't getting any better. The worst time of the day is when children are going to school and people are heading to work, and worryingly I see people not only speed but also use their mobile phones at the wheel."

The new fines are divided into three bands – A, B and C.

Limit

Drivers caught at speeds up to 10mph over the limit are classed as band A, with band B cases relating to offences where motorists were clocked at 11-21mph over the limit.

The most serious category of offence is band C, which applies to drivers exceeding the speed limit by more than 21mph. These band C offenders face fines between 125 and 175 per cent of their weekly wage, which could see the wealthiest motorists slapped with penalties close to the £2,500 limit. They could still also be banned from driving for up to 56 days or get six points on their licence.

Band B offenders can expect fines between 75 and 125 per cent of their weekly wage, and band A offenders could be slapped with fines equalling 25-75 per cent of their weekly wage.

A Shropshire-based road safety organisation also welcomed the new laws.

Alan Prosser of the TTC Group, which runs speed awareness courses for those caught breaking the limit, said: "Driving at reckless speeds of, for example more than 40mph in a 20mph limit or above 100mph on a motorway, is potentially very dangerous."

Welshpool Councillor Estelle Bleivas welcomed the new system but questioned how it would be policed.

She said: "In theory these new fines are a good idea but unfortunately we don't have the police manpower as it is to police it. I'd love to say this will be effective but how will it be policed?"

"Our issue in Welshpool is the boy racers and for them I don't think it will really have an impact because it's usually the bank of mum and dad who foot the bill for their cars and insurance. I think actually crushing any offending vehicles would be the way for it to have an effect on the boy racers."

New market move is aimed at boosting trade



Jan Williams, from the Grain Sheaf stall, is one of the traders operating at the new Thursday market in Oswestry. Photo: Jamie Ricketts.

OSWESTRY'S indoor market is now open four days a week, one of a number of new initiatives in a bid to get more shoppers spending on the stalls.

The market in the Powis Hall has traditionally opened its doors on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Now stallholders can trade on Thursdays as well, giving them a more level playing field with shops in the town.

It is hoped that the move will also get more traders taking up spots in the market.

Indoor and outdoor markets in Oswestry are managed by the town council, which this week won planning permission to move some of the outdoor stalls from the Bailey Head into Bailey Street.

Shropshire Councillors debated a planning application for the change of use of the street on Wednesdays and Saturdays when the north planning committee met on Tuesday.

A report from Shropshire Council officer Janet Davies to Tuesday's meeting said the current Wednesday and Saturday outdoor markets on Horsemarket and Bailey Head have been severely affected by the increasing trend for internet shopping and other competition.

This has had a knock-on effect on the number of customers using the indoor market, the report to councillors said.

Councillors backed the planning application with Councillor David Lloyd saying: "This is just the tonic Oswestry needs."

"I have wanted to see this for a long time. It will put the heart back into Oswestry."

An artisan market, held on the last Friday of every month, is already set up on Bailey Street and has been a success with an increase in the number of traders since the stalls were moved. It is hoped the changes will encourage more people to become market traders.

Town Clerk David Preston said that the town's markets were an ideal place for people looking to set up in business to begin.

He said: "We have a lot of young people in Oswestry with great entrepreneurial skills and ideas. Our markets are an ideal place for them to try out those ideas."

The next artisan market will be held tomorrow (Friday).

TRANSPORT

Road improvement hopes 'are boosted by co-operation'

LONG awaited improvements to the A5 and the A483 are being boosted by co-operation between the UK and Wales governments, the roads minister has revealed.

In a letter to North Shropshire MP Owen Paterson, Transport Secretary, Chris Grayling, says his department is in key discussions with the Welsh Government over investment in the A5/A483.

In his letter Mr Grayling highlights the discussions with the Welsh Government as a boost for the project and its potential funding. He said: "A heartening development in recent months has been the growing interest expressed by the Welsh Government in working together to achieve improvements to these roads as an important north-south corridor along the border of England and Wales."

"You will not be surprised to learn that I responded positively. Liaison at official level between our two departments and with Highways England about the case for investment is proceeding."

In his letter Mr Grayling rejects a suggestion from Mr Paterson to use Congestion Relief Programme money to fund the work, saying that it will instead be considered as part of the Road Investment Strategy for 2019.

Mr Paterson said it is more important than ever for people to write to the Government with their experiences of the road.

POLICE

Boy asked to get in car by strangers

POLICE say they are investigating after a 14-year-old boy reported being offered a lift by two strangers.

Officers say they received a complaint that the boy was asked at about 5pm on Saturday if he wanted a lift by the male passenger of a grey or silver Skoda, while he was walking alone along the pavement in Erw Wen in Welshpool. The boy declined the offer and the vehicle, which was being driven by a female, then drove off.

There are no descriptions available of the couple and police are asking the public for any information if they were in the area at the time.

INSIDE

Awards celebrate community pride



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Report by Sue Austin

SHROPSHIRE Council's elder statesman has warned the unitary authority's powers are being chipped away.

David Lloyd, speaker of the council, says it is gradually losing its education authority role to academies and free schools and now shares responsibility for the care of the elderly and young people with the NHS.

The veteran councillor is not seeking re-election in next week's Shropshire Council elections but will carry on as a member of Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council, continuing more than half a century's involvement in local government.

Councillor Lloyd, who received a special lifetime achievement award at Friday night's Oswestry Town Council's civic dinner, said: "Stepping down from Shropshire Council will leave a big void in my life, one I hope to bridge by remaining a member of the parish council."

He paid tribute to the successes of Shropshire Council over the years, although, as a former regional health authority chairman, said one of his biggest disappointments was when the care of the elderly and young people became shared with the NHS.

"The services were managed so well by Shropshire Council and all the good that was taking place was dismantled," he said.

"Shared responsibility meant extra staff with two different arms of the service trying to live off inadequate means and also a loss of understanding and contact.

"Similarly, Shropshire's role as the education authority was a safety net, officers were seen as having a listening ear. I feel the loss of direct contact in the running of schools has been detrimental."

Councillor Lloyd said that he was also concerned that, although good work was taking place, the council responsibility for leisure, countryside and young people's service was also slipping away.

He said: "There are good schemes surfacing now with modest resources."

The councillor said he has also been frustrated by successive governments who, whenever the economy is under stress, put more pressure on councils.

"Local government seems to be seen as a soft touch by Westminster. We have to shoulder more and more with less and less money," he said.

• Work – See Page 18

Green-fingered fundraiser carries on work



Barbara Molesworth is holding an open garden event at her aptly named home, Garden Croft, Daisy Lane in Whittington

A FUNDRAISER who has been helping the Save the Children charity for four decades says the charity's work is more important than ever this year.

Barbara Molesworth is holding an open garden event at her aptly named home, Garden Croft, Daisy Lane, Whittington on Sunday and Monday from noon until 4pm.

She and her late husband Doug, first held an open garden event 40 years ago and for a time they organised a popular open gardens trail in Whittington.

When Mrs Molesworth sold the family home and had a bungalow built on part of the grounds, she lost part of the garden.

However she worked hard to create a new one and her third of an acre garden now has flowers, vegetables and borders.

During the weekend there will be entertainment at Garden Croft.

On Sunday the Kinnerton Morris men will be performing while on Monday the Haslington Folk 'Hawkestra' will provide the music.

She said: "In today's troubled world it is more important than ever to raise funds for Save the Children.

"Because the charity works on the ground in so many places across the world, maintaining projects, it can respond very quickly in emergencies."

"Save the Children also works on projects across Britain."

Money from refreshments sold at the open garden events will go to Whittington Church.

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Speed limit battle won by villagers

A TWO-year long battle to reduce the speed limit in a village has been won by campaigners.

Shropshire Council has agreed to halve the limit in Weston Lane in Weston, near Oswestry, from 60mph to 30mph, after members of the community claimed the speeds vehicles were travelling on the road were unsafe.

To highlight the problem residents launched a petition, as well as carried out traffic surveys on the road to highlight their worries.

The local authority has confirmed money has now been put aside in its capital programme for the change, and that a consultation would be carried out in the coming months.

Councillor Joyce Barrow said the news was a "huge triumph" for village campaigners.

She said: "Speeding has been a real concern in the village for a number of years now."

"It's a really dangerous, windy stretch of road that many residents and children use, and although the speed for the road was national speed limit, that certainly wasn't right for the road, so of course the community is delighted that money has been put into the capital programme."

"I'm thrilled for local residents, in particular Joan Collins, who has led the campaign and has worked tirelessly for this."

Chairman of BID group leaves role

THE chairman of the Oswestry BID group has stepped down.

Gary Ridgway has spent a year galvanising support for the project to get the market town to be named a Business Improvement District.

In an email to the group he said he was stepping down with immediate effect.

Mr Ridgway said: "Voluntary work is nice but it takes a lot of time. It was time to step down, I needed to earn some money."

He said he would keep a keen eye on the BID project.

Vice-chairman Ian Follington said a meeting of the BID working group was due to be held on Tuesday to continue the positive work to take Oswestry forward.

"Whoever takes over as chairman is not as important as making sure that we move forward," he said.

Report by Dominic Robertson

THE region's MPs have backed the Prime Minister in her successful bid to force an early general election.

North Shropshire MP Owen Paterson and Montgomeryshire MP Glyn Davies voted with the government to abandon the fixed-term parliament for 2015-20, and instead hold a general election on June 8.

The Conservative Party MPs were among 552 MPs who voted to approve plans for the snap election.

Just 13 voted against.

Mr Paterson said he had supported the vote because a general election victory would strengthen Theresa May's hand in the forthcoming Brexit negotiations.

Mr Paterson also revealed he would like to see the fixed-term parliament act scrapped.

He said: "The Prime Minister and her cabinet have decided they want to have an election and within the constraints of the fixed parliament act, which I hope we will eventually get rid of, there has to be a vote in parliament."

He added: "Winning an election will strengthen her position and it means there would be no cliff-edge with a general election hanging over her at the end of the negotiations."

Mr Davies said the Prime Minister had been left with "little choice" due to frustration over Brexit.

He said: "I think she had little choice because so many parliamentarians have not accepted the referendum result and are seeking to reduce her ability to secure a good deal for Britain – and really I think in the hope of forcing a change of mind from the British public."

Referring to Mrs May's decision to call a snap election, Mr Davies said: "I fully support and understand why Theresa May has called a 'snap' general election on June 8.

She is facing the biggest challenge facing any British Prime Minister for many decades – striving to ensure Brexit delivers the best possible outcome both for Great Britain and for the European Union. The referendum was a bruising experience, and while the country is 'coming together' to create the best possible future for us, that is

not the position in Parliament. Many MPs seem to be focussed on working against a good agreement."

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MPS back May's move for a general election

Near miss captured on dash cam



The Mini just makes it back in time after a near miss captured by a dash cam

A MAN paralysed in a crash 15 years ago says a driver only just avoided serious injury or death in a near miss on a road near Oswestry.

Marcus Watkin captured the moment on camera when a Mini overtook him and almost ploughed into a Transit van turning right.

The dash cam footage has been viewed more than 30,000 times on social media and Mr Watkin hopes it will strike a chord and make drivers think twice before overtaking.

The near miss took place on the A495 Whittington to Ellesmere road, close to the spot where three young people died in an horrific accident because the van driver was indicating. The driver of the Mini obviously couldn't see the van indicating and shot past me. Good job I checked my mirrors when I was braking, as I spotted him starting to overtake. I was able to brake and he managed to pull in front of me a split second before a collision. I almost lost my life because of careless driving in July 2002. This footage just shows how important it is to think twice before you carry out a manoeuvre. It could have been a motorbike or a cyclist turning right."

● Watch the video at shropshirestar.com.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Garden to open up for visitors

OAK Cottage Garden at 23 High Street in Welshpool will be open for the last time this year under the National Gardens Scheme on Sunday and Monday between 2pm and 5pm.

The town centre walled garden has been revamped over the last two years but still presents gravel paths and stepping stones winding through a wide variety of plants, many unusual.

A Wardian style cabinet, the alpine house and troughs should have a number of alpines and hepaticas in flower.

Entry to the garden is from Bowring Green Lane which runs parallel to the High Street and which offers parking on Sundays.

Home made cakes and tea and coffee are available.

The entrance charge is £3.50 for adults, children free.

Fellowship group to meet up again

THE Oswestry group of the Civil Service Retirement Fellowship will be holding its next meeting on Tuesday.

The speaker on this occasion will be Carol Gough, talking about the history of Raven Cottage, Lower Brook Street, Oswestry.

The Spring Lunch for members and guests will be held on May 9 at Llansantffraid.

More information on this will be available at the May meeting or from Jan Stokes on (01691) 654380.

The fellowship is a local group for government and other pensioners who are welcome to attend the meetings, which are usually held on the first Tuesday of each month at the Wynnstay Hotel starting at 10.30am.

Ex-teacher admits to sexual assaults

A FORMER teacher has admitted sexually assaulting girls under the age of 13.

Gordon Fleming, 66, of Oswestry, appeared at Swansea Crown Court on Tuesday.

The former Powys school teacher pleaded guilty to 24 counts of sexual assault.

The abuse took place in the 1970s and 80s.

Judge Geraint Walters adjourned Fleming's case for sentence until May 9.



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Sarah Newey

Sarah's amazing marathon effort

SEASONED runner Sarah Newey gave herself a massive handicap when she took part in the London Marathon.

The 29-year-old teacher from Oswestry did the run in military kit with a 15 kilogramme sack on her back and army boots on her feet.

She ran the marathon to raise funds for Bowel Cancer UK and to raise awareness of the disease.

In 2013 Sarah lost her mother to bowel cancer, after her grandmother died from cancer only a few months before.

"More than 44 people die from bowel cancer every day in the UK, it's the nation's second biggest cancer killer," she said. "However it shouldn't be. It's treatable and curable, especially if diagnosed early. I decided I had to stand up and do

something and so embarked on a fundraising challenge. In 2014 I ran 1,000 miles of obstacle races to raise awareness of cancer."

"Before becoming a teacher I

served

for

six years in the British Army, firstly with the Royal Signals and then as a combat medic. I now serve with a medical reserve unit in Shropshire.

"The physical side of being a sol-

dier was tough, so I thought this would be a great added challenge to running the marathon."

Sarah, a teacher at the Marches School, was one of several runners from the Oswestry and Welshpool areas taking part in the marathon.

Among the other participants was a team of runners who took part in the challenge to raise funds for Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital.

CCTV has 'helped town get rid of its Wild West image'

Report by Sam Morris

OSWESTRY'S CCTV scheme has helped the town rid itself of its "Wild West" image according to one of its operators.

Jim Stafford, a co-ordinator for the town centre scheme, said that the perception of the town had greatly improved since cameras were installed at the start of the millennium.

Speaking to Oswestry Town Council, the former police inspector said he had seen the image of the town improve drastically since he moved there.

He said: "I came to Oswestry in 1985 to work. Over that time, it has helped to drastically change the character of the town and helped remove the image it had of being a bit of a Wild West town."

"The cameras are not just for anti-social behaviour. Sometimes things are captured when there are no volunteers on duty.

"Very often, CCTV can protect somebody accused of being an offender. CCTV can be a very powerful tool."

Mr Stafford said the CCTV system in the town had helped with many police investigations, including a kidnapping and other violent incidents.

He said: "We are very grateful to the town council. This is definitely the most supportive town council on CCTV."

"Apart from just run of the mill incidents, the whole kidnap incident was captured on CCTV and three suspects eventually got 16 years in prison."

The volunteer-run CCTV scheme, launched in 2001, was given a complete overhaul two years ago with better quality recording and wireless cameras.

Volunteers have helped with an average of 600 incidents each year and in the past three months the CCTV organisers have already carried out 40 reviews of evidence.

In February a further bid was submitted to the West Mercia police commissioner for £26,500 to add further cameras.

Litter cleared by volunteers



Some of the volunteers involved in the Afon Tanat community clear-up

ANGLERS, paddlers and residents joined forces to clear litter from a river bank.

The Afon Tanat in the Tanat Valley near Oswestry is an important river for salmon and trout and Natural Resources Wales and the Severn Rivers Trust are working to improve habitat and water quality to increase numbers of fish.

Lisa Barlow, project officer for the River Friendly Severn project, said landowners had given permission to access the river bank for the day, which members of the

Upper Tanat Fishing Club organised. "The Green Inn at Llangedwyn very kindly allowed us to use their car park and beer garden after the litter pick," she said. "This activity was part of the River Friendly Severn Project supported by a Welsh Government Arwain Leader grant. It is an Environment Agency initiative being piloted in Powys by the Severn Rivers Trust to bring together communities to help keep our river water clean." Several bags of litter were collected during the day.

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OSWESTRY & BORDER
CHRONICLE

First half marathon event is set to go with a bang

Report by Sue Austin

OSWESTRY'S first ever half marathon is set to go off with a bit of a bang.

A silver band playing Chariots of Fire and a starting cannon rather than a gun will set runners on their way for the UKRunChat Oswestry Half Marathon.

Oswestry Mayor Paul Milner will be the official starter of the race at the British Ironwork Centre on Sunday and will send the runners on their way by pulling the cord on a cannon at 9.30am.

World record marathon runner Amy Hughes will be guest of honour. The Porthwywaen Silver Band will be playing at the start line, contributing to the atmosphere while all finishers will be presented with a bespoke hand-sculpted gorilla medal. One of the country's leading sculptors, Joe Bailey, designed the prototype for the medals.

The medal is based on the 12-foot-high Uri Geller spoon gorilla which the British Ironwork Centre is home to.

Runners will find themselves warming up next to life-size metal wildebeest, cheetahs, elephants and rhinos before following the 13.1-mile course through the sculpture park and out on the roads through Oswestry.

Clive Knowles from the British Ironwork Centre says ear plugs will be available for anyone concerned about the noise from the cannons.

He has promised to sign the grounds with a warning and anyone wishing to stay a distance away can do. Suppliers of the cannon, gunsmith Paul Edwards of Llangollen, is confident that the volume of the noise is not dangerous and has never had any complaints in the past from public meetings or events.

To ensure the 1,000 runners of the half marathon are led through Oswestry safely, organisers have arranged for a local police bike owner, Geraint Roberts, to lead the race. He is among a number of volunteers helping to make Oswestry's first half marathon a great success. Among those taking part will be two brothers taking on their seventh half marathon of the year, as part of an impressive challenge to raise as much money as possible for Cancer Research UK.

Darren and Phil Gibbons' 2017 Runathon will see them run just over 442 miles between them at 17 half marathons across the country over the course of 2017. It is a gruelling challenge requiring dedication, training and sacrifice, but the two men are committed to raising money to help fund vital research into cancer, which has affected a number of family and friends.

"We're really looking forward to running Oswestry as it will be very different," said Darren.

That's not the impression we want to give to our visitors.

"If children are made aware from a young age, that what's been going on is wrong, it will be instilled into them and hopefully won't be a problem in the future."

As part of the plans, which were due to be discussed at a meeting of the town council last night (Wednesday), a working group could be set up, as well as literature and presentations delivered in the community.

It is hoped Dyfed-Powys Police and other organisations will get on board to help with the campaign.

Town Councillor Estelle Bleivas said if approved, the campaign would be coming into force at a "crucial time" in the year for the town.

She said: "It's coming up to the prime tourist season, which is the most important time for us to get the message out there because we don't want tourists coming to a pig sty, we want them to be impressed by what Welshpool has to offer but I'm afraid they won't be if there's litter on the streets and dog poo left on the pavements.

"That's not the impression we want to give to our visitors.

"If children are made aware from a young age, that what's been going on is wrong, it will be instilled into them and hopefully won't be a problem in the future."



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Darren and Phil Gibbons will be among the 1,000 Oswestry half marathon runners

Energy park sparks worries

MORE than 1,300 heavy goods vehicles travelling to and from a proposed renewable energy park would have a "dramatic effect" on a village's landscape, tourist economy and infrastructure, it has been claimed.

Members of Oswestry Rural Parish Council have voiced their opposition at plans for a renewable energy park – to include a 101-metre high wind turbine and 2,500 solar panels – and say they can't support the access plans for the development.

Council chairman Robert Milton said: "On access grounds, the council came to the decision that we cannot support it, especially with the figure thrown up for 1,300 HGVs travelling to and from the renewable energy park, and that doesn't include local contractors vehicles."

"The vehicles will have an extremely dramatic effect on local tourism, as well as the landscape and infrastructure."

Councillor Milton said a meeting to discuss the access attracted "most members of the community", with the local feeling "strongly opposed" to the plans.

The council was due to discuss the application for the proposed Cefn y Maes Community Renewable Energy Park, on land near Oswestry's Old Racecourse at Rhydcroesau, at a further meeting on Tuesday this week.

The developers behind the scheme, renewables firm Engena Limited, say the energy park will have a lifespan of 30 years and will produce enough energy to provide electricity for more than 550 homes.

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PETER RHODES



BEAVERS, lynxes, wolves, elk?

As the debate rages over whether to reintroduce big mammals into the British countryside, a friend is in despair.

His small but perfectly trimmed lawn is his pride and joy, yet every night it is being ripped up and left horribly potted.

He would happily see the re-introduction of any animals – so long as they eat badgers.

MEANWHILE, you can't help but be astonished at the number of dead badgers at the roadside.

How can such a big, sociable and intelligent creature have so little road sense?

I sometimes wonder whether any of these 'road-kill' badgers have actually been shot and then dumped in the carriageway to conceal the crime.

What feeds my suspicion is the curious fact that, although you will see hundreds of dead badgers on the roads, you rarely meet a driver who admits to killing one.

AFTER last week's item about how diesel drivers will be treated under the proposed scrappage scheme, another issue.

What happens to used-car dealers?

My friendly local garage has 42 cars on the forecourt, of which 29 are diesels.

Who in their right mind would buy one?

AND if big, powerful diesel engines are removed from UK roads, what happens to Britain's 500,000 touring caravans?

Imagine if that lot organised a protest column through London.

UNINTENDED consequences. The authorities in Naples, fed up with negative coverage, have threatened to prosecute anyone found 'defaming the city'.

The snag is that, simply by announcing this crackdown, the council focuses attention on years of allegations about uncollected rubbish, prostitutes, crumbling buildings, touts, hustlers, social decay and, of course, the Mafia.

Sometimes it's easier to shoot the messenger than get a grip.

THE BBC is making a big thing about David Dimbleby presenting his 10th General Election. It will be my 13th.

I can remember when most voters were described as working-class.

Today, they are 'ordinary working people'.

I'm not sure who it was who decided they were ordinary.

DOWNTON to our local market where the fishmonger was offering both Scottish and Manx kippers.

I asked if the difference was that the Manx kippers don't have tails.

He said he'd never heard that one before.



Fay Vass of the South Shropshire-based British Hedgehog Preservation Society



Three rescued hedgehogs at Cuan Wildlife Rescue in Much Wenlock last year



An artist's impression of the A24 trap, that can be mounted at the base of trees

WORKING FOR YOU

I write this column as I recover from the shock of our Prime Minister calling a 'snap' General Election.

It will be held on June 8.

Because I had not been expecting this, there is a lot of work to be done in a very short time preparing for the election campaign.

Of course it's just the same for all election candidates from all parties.

Elections

Luckily I rather enjoy elections. It provides a really good opportunity to meet and talk to the people I so enjoy representing in the House of Commons.

After recovering from the surprise of the Prime Minister's announcement, I have to say that I completely agree with her decision.

The main reason behind the decision involves the people's decision that the United Kingdom will leave the European Union.

This may be the public's 'instruction' to Government, but it is the most challenging prospect facing a British Prime Minister since the Second World War.

After over 40 years in an increasingly integrated European Union, leaving will need a leader that we can trust, with the personal and Parliamentary authority to secure a good deal for both Britain, and the European Union.

Trust

We need a leader we can trust. And 'trust' is the first quality that comes to mind when we think of Theresa May.

The referendum was hugely divisive amongst voters.

But I sense most of the public have accepted the result, and that the UK is leaving the European Union.

They want the Prime Minister to "get on with it" and secure the best deal.

This is not the situation in Parliament, where many MPs refuse to accept the referendum result, and want to create difficulties for the Prime Minister.

Their hope is that they only secure a poor deal – which would lead to a reversal of the referendum result.

Persuaded

It is this attitude which persuaded the Prime Minister to "go for it" on June 8.

I will be standing for re-election as the MP for Montgomeryshire.

It's been a huge honour to represent the constituency where I was born, and have always lived, in Parliament.

Inevitably, constituents sometimes disagree with me, but I give everything on their behalf.

I hope they will re-elect me. Glyn Davies Montgomeryshire MP

New traps are leaving hedgehogs in a prickle

The hedgehog is one of our favourite mammals but faces an uncertain future. Report: THOMAS MORTON.

APRIL is the time of year that Britain's favourite mammal emerges from hibernation and is usually seen out and about once more.

But the plight of the common hedgehog – voted the nation's favourite wild mammal in a country-wide poll in 2016 – remains dire, with reports of encounters with the prickly creature vastly down on previous years according to Shropshire Wildlife Trust.

It is not yet known what is behind the worrying figures, but hedgehog numbers have been declining steadily.

They are now also facing a new threat from a kind of pest trap imported from New Zealand.

Sightings

Stuart Edmunds of Shropshire Wildlife Trust said sightings of the creature, which tends to hibernate between November and March, were not encouraging.

He said: "Last year was looking like a really good year for hedgehogs.

"The numbers were quite high.

"This year for some reason the hedgehogs have just plummeted with about 70 per cent less recorded than last year."

Fay Vass, chief executive of the British Hedgehog Preservation Society, a national wildlife charity that is based in the Clee Hills near Ludlow, said it was hard to know what was behind those figures and it was early days.

She said: "There could be all kinds of things that are skewing that statistically,



Stuart Edmunds of Shropshire Wildlife Trust with a hedgehog

and I'd be surprised if that was the picture nationally."

"They are declining year on year but nationally the decline is fairly consistent."

But, she said, one real cause for concern was that the Government had recently approved the use of a trap to kill rats and stoats that can also kill hedgehogs.

The Goodnature A24 trap has been approved for use in England, with approval for Wales and Scotland pending.

It is used in New Zealand to kill hedgehogs deliberately, as there they

are a non-native invasive species and considered pests.

But in the UK it is a very different story and hedgehogs are protected because of their falling numbers.

Ms Vass said, while no one in the UK may set such a trap for a hedgehog, it would be difficult to stop them getting caught in them by accident.

"It has been approved for use here unaltered," she said.

"If a trap is set and it catches a hedgehog, then the person who set the trap can be prosecuted.

"Anyone setting traps for vermin

or non-protected species is obliged to take all reasonable precautions to avoid catching a protected species.

"Since there are no 'reasonable precautions' to avoid catching hedgehogs using this trap, anyone who sets them is at risk of prosecution if they catch a hedgehog."

Defra has so far responded that "The Goodnature A24 trap is not approved for use against hedgehogs in England. Where traps are used for other species, the trapper must ensure that offences against protected species are not committed."

But Ms Vass wants the matter to be debated in Parliament, which will need 100,000 petition signatures by September 13 this year.

Highest

Currently there are 22,474, and Shropshire people are leading the way, with the highest number from a single constituency, she said.

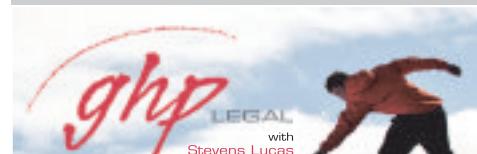
She said though something needed to be done about the decline of the species, even though it is thought unlikely that the creature could become extinct.

Studies by the British Hedgehog Preservation Society and People's Trust for Endangered Species suggest a minimum of 32 individuals in 90 hectares of the best habitat available is the minimum requirement for an isolated population to survive. She said: "The main concern is that hedgehogs are becoming a rare sight in our gardens, parks and other spaces – across both rural and urban landscapes. If this continues, it could result in huge parts of Britain not being home to any hedgehog populations at all, which would be tragic."

"This is more realistic as a consequence, rather than extinction."

"However, with the public's help we can help ensure this doesn't happen, so that future generations can enjoy this iconic British species."

An online link to the trap petition is at www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk



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CAN I GET COMPENSATION FOR INJURY CAUSED BY TRIPPING ON PUB STAIR-CARPET?

Q: I have a prosthetic lower left leg. A few weeks ago I was in a local pub where the toilets were upstairs. After visiting the toilets I caught my right foot in some loose carpet on the way back down the stairs and fell. The result is that I broke my collarbone and shoulder and cannot work.

As I am self-employed this is causing me considerable financial hardship. I realise that an able-bodied person may have been able to regain their balance and, in fairness, there was a handrail but I just couldn't grab it in time to save myself. The question is, would I qualify for compensation and could I get help with legal fees?

A: Even if you did not have a prosthetic leg it sounds likely that you could still have tripped and fallen. The issue is that a public building should not have loose carpet on the staircase as it is a hazard. You should make an appointment to see a reputable local injury compensation solicitor as soon as possible so that he or she can assess whether you have a viable claim and also confirm whether or not your prosthetic leg did contribute in any way to your injury.

Even if it is deemed that the public house management is not entirely to blame for your injuries, it may still be possible for your solicitor to negotiate a deal based on a percentage level of contributory negligence. This would mean that if you were found to be say 15 percent responsible for your injuries you would receive 85 percent of any compensation award.

Regarding legal costs, it may be possible to enter into a No-Win, No-Fee arrangement with your solicitor whereby there would be no fee to pay if you were to lose the case.

This question has been answered by Claire Parfitt, a Solicitor with GHP Legal. For an appointment visit www.gphlegal.com or contact one of our offices: Oswestry 01691 659194, Chirk 01691 777949, Wrexham 01978 291456, Llangollen 01972 692013. We also offer free legal diagnostic clinics (no appointment necessary) as follows: Personal Injury, Employment & Family matters – Wednesdays 12noon-3pm in Oswestry; In Wrexham, Mondays 9.30am-12noon for Employment matters and 12noon – 3pm for Personal Injury & Family matters. GHP Legal is authorised and regulated by the SRA 51566, and Lexcel Accredited.



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Letters

Trump's visit will spark huge protests

THOSE of us who hoped against hope that the ascension of Donald Trump from beligerent, unpleasant presidential candidate to President of the United States would herald his transformation into a thoughtful, measured, diplomatic statesman, have been (unsurprisingly) disappointed.

So not only have we the earlier record of a racist, sexist mocker of disability, banning mainstream media, and opponent of an independent judiciary, but now he is in office, outrage after outrage is tweeted, asserted and shouted across more or less every issue Trump turns his attention to.

The question is, how does this affect us?

Well, as the most powerful leader of the West, everything the President of the USA does affects the UK, and especially as our Brexit negotiations with the EU take on a great significance. Our relationship with the US will remain crucial to our wellbeing.

The next question is – so what can we do about the appalling man? Some time in the autumn, President Trump will pay a state visit to the UK, at the request of the Queen, delivered by Theresa May.

At that time, we will see the biggest protest demonstrations in every part of the UK (and probably the Commonwealth) that we have seen for decades. The people of Britain

will show the world that they want nothing to do with his adolescent behaviour and absurd policy rants. The last question is – what good will it do? History tells us that, whilst it is difficult to remove an American President, it is not impossible. Richard Nixon took some shifting, and he battled long and hard to avoid impeachment, despite his criminal behaviour. Nixon was forced out by a combination of judicial and political agencies in the US, but both strands heavily influenced by public opinion.

Protests make a difference. Just you see.

DAVID ASKINS
Lightmoor

Weekend of history really was a hugely enjoyable event

IT sounds contrived to say that an event 'changed my life.'

But that's exactly what the Welshpool Forties Weekend did.

My home is in the US, but I've wanted for some time to live at least part of the year in the UK.

I settled on Wales for my home abroad and had mapped out an initial itinerary, including a town near the coast I designated my 'HQ'.

However, some friends who are avid WWII re-enactors talked me into changing everything – my arrival/departure dates, my itinerary, my HQ – so that I could attend the Welshpool event, which they felt would be well worth the changes.

They were completely, gratifying right!

The town captivated me: more than a village, less than a city, it has all the charm, friendliness, and amenities I needed.

As to the Forties Weekend itself, I must say that I'm an historian (now a pensioner.)

I've enjoyed historical reenactment/living history for many years as a sort of busman's holiday.

To be enjoyable for me, an event has to show good planning, good execution, and genuine history, so that visitors (and re-enactors) both enjoy themselves and feel they are immersed in the people, things, and events from the past.

There must also be a good mix of pure fun (the Blitz Ball and music acts scattered throughout the site), community involvement (like local businesses festooned with Union Jack pennants and wartime posters), and accessible exhibits (the Spitfire on display and other 'life as it was lived' exhibits.)

All present and correct at the Welshpool Forties Weekend! It is a 'must attend' occasion for anyone who can get there!"

This year's event is 29th September to 1st October inclusive

MAUREEN PATRICK
Tampa Bay
Florida

A vote would finish leader

THE population of Scotland is about 5.4 million, less than one tenth of the rest of the UK.

The Scottish people already get an allocation per head of over £1,300, more than us in England, due to a formula known as the Barnett formula. The smokescreen is to hide the fact the Scottish education system and Scottish Health Service have deteriorated under the SNP. This will continue, I have no doubt, due to the SNP's preoccupation with "once in a lifetime" votes on a regular basis until they get the vote they want. The SNP does not represent all of Scotland and the canny Scots are not likely to vote like turkeys for Christmas. They will not be allowed to join the EU if they become independent, the EU do not want non-net contributors, they want net contributors like the UK. Give Scotland, or rather Sturgeon, a vote after Brexit and it will finish her.

DAVE BARNETT
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Postcard shows town church in all its glory



Christ Church in Welshpool is seen here in an undated postcard from the collection of Sally Anne Richards

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

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Birdless fields crops failed

THE BBC could not have chosen a worse time to make and broadcast the TV documentary Meet the Lords.

Post Brexit a large percentage of these peers have displayed an arrogant presumption and pomposity alongside an open contempt for the electorate. Unelected and accountable to no one these giant egos pretend to be our Parliament's second chamber using their experience, reason and common-sense to calm the impetuous Commons – the stark truth is that they have sat there for 43 years and allowed the Commons to ship our sovereignty over the Channel piece by piece and said nothing!

There are 400 seats in the House of Lords and few toilets yet they allow their membership to exceed 800. The solution to this problem is simple – cancel the unwarranted, over generous, unjustifiable and untaxed Daily Attendance Allowance, remove also the subsidies of their food, drink, travel and parking and I guarantee there will be seats to spare inside three months!

BOB WYDELL
Oswestry

Increase police patrols to combat flytipping menace

I REALISE that Shropshire is a large county, but with the alarming increase in robberies, flytipping, rustling, theft etc in rural areas as reported in your newspapers, isn't it about time there was a crackdown in this crime?

Leave aside being accused of 'big brother' tactics, why do not our law enforcers, in my opinion, stop and search between midnight and daylight, any commercial vehicle, needed to carry out these heinous crimes?

If innocent, drivers should have no concern. Why cannot the police night-time patrols, be significantly increased as in towns and cities on Friday and Saturday nights, in order to combat this increasing problem?

My advice, for what it is worth, is for the Chief Constable or Crime Commissioner or whoever is in charge nowadays, to stop 'pussy-footing', at least quadruple night patrols and for Pete's sake do not advertise that the target areas.

Perhaps if successful, other parts of the country may follow.

PETER HASSALL
Shifnal

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Former Brookside actor Ricky Tomlinson was in Oswestry as part of his Justice For The Shrewsbury 2 campaign



A small audience attended the Oswestry event to hear about the campaign

Ricky tells of battle

ACTOR Ricky Tomlinson – who was jailed for picketing building sites in Shropshire in the 1970s – has taken his campaign for an investigation into his imprisonment to Oswestry.

Mr Tomlinson, who has starred in shows including The Royle Family and Brookside, is gathering evidence for the Criminal Cases Review Commission to have the case referred to the Court of Appeal.

In a passionate speech in Oswestry, the actor said he had hoped that some of the pickets from the town who travelled to Shrewsbury and Tel-

ford would be at the meeting held at Oswestry Cricket Club on Tuesday last week.

He said he was disappointed that they had not gone along to the event.

"The Oswestry pickets could hold the key to breaking some of the myths," he said.

A small audience heard Mr Tomlinson say he was fighting for justice, not for himself, but for his fellow picket, Des Warren.

Mr Warren was jailed for three years and Mr Tomlinson for two after they were found guilty of "conspiracy to intimidate" while picketing in Shropshire in 1972.

Mr Warren died in 2004 suffering from Parkinson's disease that Mr Tomlinson said had been linked to sedatives given to prisoners dur-

ing the 1970s. "I have a good life. I have been all over the world and met some wonderful people," he said.

"Des never had that chance. The last time I saw him he weighed just six stone and his hair was snow white. That's what they did do him. I am fighting for him."

During his visit, Mr Tomlinson issued a challenge to Oswestry businessman and former housebuilding boss Peter Starbuck to meet him to talk about the events at the time.

After the meeting, a representative from a production team putting together a documentary on the industrial dispute said Mr Tomlinson and Mr Starbuck had agreed to meet, possibly on a TV debate show.



Des Warren and Ricky Tomlinson were jailed for their part in picketing building sites in Shropshire in the 1970s and Mr Warren died in 2004

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Children's centre 'will remain at hospital site'

THE man in charge of Shropshire's two main hospitals says he will keep Telford's £28m women and children's centre at the Princess Royal - no matter what decision is made about where to base the county's emergency centre.

Simon Wright, chief executive of the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust, said PRH will also benefit from a new cancer unit for patients needing day case treatment such as chemotherapy.

He said the new cancer unit will be delivered whatever the outcome of the Future Fit process.

Mr Wright said the review into the long-term future of hospital services in the county would also have no effect on PRH continuing to provide a midwife-led unit, an early pregnancy assessment service, ante natal and post natal care, day case surgery, gynaecology and paediatric services.

Previously, it was said that women and children's services would have to be located next to the main accident and emergency department. Health chiefs have proposed creating an emergency centre at either PRH or Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, with the other becoming a "planned care" site.

Mr Wright said: "Our intention, if our proposals are approved, is to maintain a women and children's centre at PRH no matter what decision is made about where the emergency centre should be based."

"Based on the latest data, this would mean that at least seven out of 10 contacts, such as attendances or appointments, for women and children would remain at PRH either through the women and children's centre or a new accident and urgent care centre, even if it was the planned care site."

Last month it was announced Councillor Aled Davies was suspended from the authority. He had pleaded guilty to six animal health offences in 2015, alongside Councillor Thomas, who admitted to nine offences.

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Councillor begins his period of suspension

Report by Naomi Penrose

A COUNTY councillor who appeared before a Standards Committee for a breach of the Code of Conduct has begun a four-week suspension.

Councillor Gwynfor Thomas, who represents the Llansantffraid ward on Powys County Council, was suspended from all county council business for four weeks following a hearing of the Standards Committee on March 15. Councillor Thomas was given 21 days to appeal against the decision.

He is the third member of the Conservative Party on Powys County Council to have been suspended in the past month.

The hearing, which was held before five independent people and two county councillors, ruled that Councillor Thomas had breached the Code of Conduct for Members – bringing his office or the council/authority into dispute as a result of the breach. The breach relates to the prosecution in 2015 of Councillor Thomas under the Cattle Identification Regulations.

The suspension will run until May 8, during which time Councillor Thomas will not be able to act as a councillor. The council has arranged for a neighbouring councillor to cover for him during the suspension period. Members under suspension are not able to take part in any form of business of the authority. In addition if they have been appointed by the council to an outside body, including appointment as a local authority school governor, they cannot act on that body during their suspension.

Last month it was announced Councillor Aled Davies was suspended from the authority. He had pleaded guilty to six animal health offences in 2015, alongside Councillor Thomas, who admitted to nine offences.

Sweet gesture by caring young Harlie



Harlie McGowan made sure youngsters at Hope House had an Easter to remember this year

HARLIE McGOWAN knew he wanted to give something back to Hope House Children's Hospice this Easter to thank it for all the help it had given him.

The nine-year-old lost his mother six years ago and the charity, based at Morda near Oswestry, has been helping him ever since with coun-

selling sessions and general support. He started a drive for chocolate eggs to help brighten the lives of children in need this Easter, but was amazed when Morrisons offered a special hamper filled with treats for him to pass on.

"I wanted to give the poorly children something for Easter," he said.

"It's really nice that Morrisons donated so many Easter eggs. I'm really surprised by how many there were."

Cassandra Smith, community champion at Morrisons, said: "It has been a big pleasure to support this worthwhile cause – Hope House is a worthy recipient."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Member's work warmly praised

A TOWN'S mayor has paid tribute to a councillor who is stepping down next month after 24 years involvement.

Cynthia Hawksley, a former mayor of Oswestry herself, has decided not to run for re-election for her seat on the Maserfield Ward of the town council.

At her final town council meeting, current mayor, councillor Paul Milner, paid tribute to his colleague and thanked her for her help.

He said: "I would like to personally say, since I was elected as a councillor you have helped me no end. Without your guidance I don't think I could have gone through my year as mayor so smoothly."

Councillor Hawksley, who was the town's mayor in 2011, gave an emotional speech at the end of the authority's annual town meeting. She said: "It has been a great privilege to be part of this council for 24 years but tonight I do feel quite sad. I would like to thank the staff for all their help and support they have given me over the 24 years."

Group hears of equality concerns

OSWESTRY Equality Group has got off to a flying start this spring, organisers have said.

After a talk in March from Nick Wood of Shropshire's housing department, April's meeting heard from Prof Rod Thomson, director of public health for Shropshire.

He talked extensively and with real depth about health in the area.

The group's next public meeting is on June 15, when Tim Compton from Shrewsbury Ark will be talking about homelessness.

For details about the group contact (01691) 680382 or e-mail oswestryequalitygroup@gmail.com

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NEWS IN BRIEF**Moderate walk for the ramblers**

THE Welshpool Ramblers walk on Sunday will be a circular 7.5 mile moderate one led by Sandra Smith in an area near Fairbourne.

The route will be on woodland, mountain and moorland tracks and will pass by Arthog Waterfall, various historic and archaeological features, and the Blue Lake.

The start will be from a car park near Arthog, at OS grid ref SH 640 147, to which access is made via a gated road.

All are welcome but no dogs on the walk.

Meet at 8.30am in the car park beside the Welshpool Tourist Information Centre (OS grid ref SJ 226076), from where transport may be available, or at the start of the walk ready for a 10am departure.

For further information telephone (01691) 831963.

Woman suffers sexual assault

A WOMAN was sexually assaulted after being approached outside her home, police have said.

The victim was approached outside her home in Welshpool.

Police say she was then pushed inside the property then sexually assaulted.

The incident is said to have happened at approximately 1am on Monday last week.

Officers from Dyfed-Powys Police are investigating the assault.

The force say the victim is being supported by specially trained officers.

Anyone who witnessed anything suspicious around that time or has any information about the incident is asked to contact Dyfed-Powys Police by calling 101.

African train the aim thanks to £22k boost

Report by Pam Kingsley

A RAILWAY has launched a project to create an African train with the help of a £22,800 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The project will see the Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway celebrating the connections the UK has with the west African nation of Sierra Leone.

Under the initial phase one of the Llanfair line's most popular locomotives will set off on a grand tour of UK heritage sites, starting in Leeds where it was built, via London and Birmingham, to the Shrewsbury Steam Rally in August.

Hunslet 2-6-2T locomotive No. 85, built in 1954 for service in Sierra Leone and purchased from a scrap dealer by the Welshpool & Llanfair in 1975, has been out of use since 2010 when its boiler ticket ran out.

For the past five years the locomotive has been on display at the Locomotion Museum in Shildon – an 'out-station' of the National Railway Museum in York – where it has been helping to promote links with the Sierra Leone National Railway Museum.

Now that No. 85's time in Shildon is at an end, the plan is to take the locomotive on a summer tour around the UK.

It will be used to tell the story of slavery and freedom, and the links between the UK and Sierra Leone, while helping to raise funds for the building of a new workshop at the railway's Llanfair Caereinion base.

It is intended that No. 85 will be the first locomotive to be restored in the new facility. Once restored the loco will be able to form the African Train, running with two Gloucester-built Sierra Leone Railways bogie carriages that the railway also purchased in 1975.



The locomotive No. 85 has been on display at Shildon for the past five years and will soon be used in a new project

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Bank will not change plan for closure

A HIGH street bank has said there will be no U-turn made on its decision to close its Welshpool branch.

Representatives of NatWest met Welsh Assembly member, Russell George, MP, Glyn Davies and town clerk Robert Robinson, as well as leaders of Age Concern.

The bank was urged to reconsider its decision to close in Welshpool on September 27 but Mr George said that was turned down.

"We were told there would be no consultation, that the decision had been taken and that was that," he said.

"I was disappointed but not at all surprised."

Mr George said the meeting was told that a mobile bank would visit Welshpool once a week and that there would be a community banker that would travel to the town weekly to deal with customers in person, according to bosses.

"We now need to ensure that what NatWest puts in place is right for the people of Welshpool," he added.

"The bank has agreed to meet us three months after closure to ensure that everything is working properly."

Band returning to town to play again

THE Ashby Little Big Band proved so successful at last year's 1940s weekend Blitz Ball that they have been asked back to play at a fundraising dance at Welshpool Town Hall on Saturday from 7.30pm.

Leader of the nine piece band David Bradford's maternal grandfather originates from Welshpool.

The band comes with guest singers plus instructors who will teach a number of dances that the band will play.

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Police worker is fired after probe

A WEST Mercia Police worker convicted of making indecent photographs has been dismissed following a misconduct hearing.

John Frankland, 60, from Oswestry appeared at Telford Magistrates Court on April 10 charged with three counts of making an indecent photograph/pseudo-photograph of a child.

He received a six-month prison sentence, suspended for 12 months, and an indefinite sexual harm prevention order. Frankland worked as an Operations and Communication Centre operator based at Hindlip.

The offences were not committed while he was at his work.

Superintendent Helena Bennett, head of professional standards for West Mercia Police, said: "The member of staff had been suspended from duty and has since been dismissed from his post." She said that, going forward, the outcome of the misconduct hearing is subject to all the normal appeals processes.

Parade funds go to help hospice

AT a recent meeting of Oswestry Borderland Rotary Club, the final distribution of the funds from the Christmas Parade was made to the Severn Hospice.

Harry Edwards, the chaplain of the hospice received the cheque from club president, John Croft. The sum of £1,250 was made up from the parade funds and other club initiatives.

Mr Edwards spoke of the ongoing support given by Oswestry Borderland Rotary Club to the hospice and he expressed the organisation's profound gratitude. Severn Hospice supports thousands of patients and their families in Shropshire and Mid Wales.

It provides residential and home care for people with incurable illnesses. The club's president confirmed the club's commitment to supporting the hospice in the future.

Future of council houses subject of new study

Report by Dominic Robertson

OPTIONS for the future of about 4,000 council houses in Shropshire are under consideration by consultants.

It is understood that one of the options being examined for the Shropshire Council-owned homes, in Oswestry and Bridgnorth, would be the sale to another housing group.

Shropshire Council has confirmed that the properties, currently managed by Star Housing, are under review but the authority's leader has insisted that no decision to sell has been made.

The report, being carried out by Savills, is due to be completed by the end of next month.

Andy Begley, Shropshire Council's director of adult services, said the authority wants to assess the "best possible options" for the future of the homes.

He said: "We have commissioned Savills to do an assessment and produce options on our behalf."

"They are looking at the best possible options, and the future of the council housing stock. We are expecting their report to be completed at the end of May."

Councillor Malcolm Pate, the authority's leader, said: "There is no decision that has been made to sell any of the housing stock whatsoever. Obviously because of the financial predicament of the council we are looking at all options but people should not read too much into me saying that."

The council leader said the report would mean that any decision is taken on the best evidence possible. He said: "All of these things we are looking at, it does not mean we will do any of them. When you have a difficult decision to make it is only right that you make those on the basis of comprehensive data."

Trapped lorry causes traffic congestion



The lorry which got stuck under the railway bridge at Whittington Road in Oswestry. Photo: Craig Hughes.

A LORRY became stuck under a railway bridge in Oswestry causing rush hour delays for motorists.

The truck became trapped under the bridge in Whittington Road at about 8am on Tuesday.

A section of Whittington Road had

to be closed to motorists and police were on hand to direct traffic.

Meanwhile, motorists face disruption as a major route is closed overnight for roadworks.

The work is taking place until Saturday on a five-mile stretch from the

Mile End roundabout at Oswestry to the Gledrid roundabout on the A5/A483. The road will be closed in both directions. Drainage improvements, patching, vegetation clearance, sign cleaning and lining are among the works being carried out.

Same bus but different prices for passengers

BUS passengers from a border town say they are paying way over the odds for their tickets because they do not qualify for a day saver pass.

The people who travel from Chirk into Wrexham on the number 2 services have to fork out £6.20 for a return trip or £25 for a weekly pass.

But those who are picked up a couple of miles down the road at Newbridge – by the same bus – pay just £4.50 return and only £14 for a week's pass.

Although Chirk is within the Wrexham County Borough boundary, when passengers questioned bus company Arriva, they were told the anomaly was because the Chirk bus was on the Oswestry to Wrexham route and is an Arriva Midlands vehicle not an Arriva Wales one.

A local councillor who has taken the matter up was flabbergasted by the explanation. Councillor Terry Evans said: "That is absolutely ridiculous. The bus that picks up passengers in Chirk is exactly the same bus that a few minutes later picks up in Newbridge where people save almost £2 a day or can get a weekly ticket for less than half price."

He said that Chirk people and those living along the Ceiriog valley, which is also in the Wrexham borough, were being unfairly penalised.

"A lot of people use the service to get into work in Wrexham. If you are on the minimum wage that is a lot of money over 12 months."

"We need to ensure that Chirk and Ceiriog Valley are moved into the Welsh Saver Zone so passengers can purchase a Wrexham Day Saver Ticket. And stop this inequality."

Councillor Jones and Welsh Assembly member, Susan Elan Jones, have written to Welsh Assembly transport secretary, Ken Skates, about the inequality after being told the buses were run by commercial operators.

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Town has something for all

Commercial feature

From big names stores to individual, family-run shops, market stalls and cafes a-plenty, Oswestry has something for everyone.

The town centre has not one, but several shopping streets, all with a mix of shops, large and small.

There are the well-known High Street names including fashion and food shops.

And sitting alongside are the independent shops and specialists who draw visitors from a large area.

The town has one of the largest, kitchen shops in the region and an award-winning bookshop – both putting on special events throughout the year.

There are specialists for music, cameras and bicycles and also gift stores – perfect if looking for that special present for someone, or a treat for yourself or your home.

The town has also retained its independent food shops, from butchers and bakers to sweet shops and delicatessen, while drinkers can also call into a wine and beer specialist.

Oswestry is not only an ideal place for bargain hunters and shoppers – it is a superb town to visit at any time of the year.

The town takes pride in how it looks and its Bloom committee ensures Oswestry looks as good as possible throughout the year.

The jewel in Oswestry's crown is Cae Glas Park, a superb green space and children's play area right in the heart of the town.

On the outskirts of the town is Old Oswestry Hillfort, a superb place for a walk and a breath of fresh air.



The colourful and glorious Cae Glas Park is known by many as Oswestry's jewel in the crown



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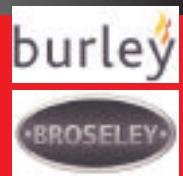


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Trade has been key to success of area

Commercial feature

Oswestry has been a centre of trade for hundreds of years and has huge pride in its industry heritage.

The town has both an outdoor and an indoor market.

The markets are run by Oswestry Town Council which is continually refreshing them to ensure they succeed in the future.

Traders set out their stalls in Bailey Street and the Bailey Head on Wednesdays and Saturdays while the indoor market at the top of the Bailey Head is also open on Thursdays and Fridays.

On the last Friday of every month there is also the Artisan market where food producers and crafters come together for the popular event.

Speciality markets are also held regularly throughout the year.

The markets provide a diverse, and often unusual, range of interesting stalls, selling and providing a vast range of services.

Markets have been a major part of the trading and historical importance of Oswestry and have existed for many centuries.

The first known charter was granted during the reign of Henry II when the Town was known as Whitminster.

In 1262 a charter was granted by John FitzAlan, Lord of the Manor To Our Burgesses of our village of Oswaldestree.

The Powis Hall Indoor Market Hall was originally maintained by the Lord of the Manor, and was the Town Hall or Guildhall until premises adjacent were built in 1782.

From this date until 1960 the building was used as a corn exchange, then as a butter and cheese market and during the Second World War for emergency storage and for auxiliary fire



Oswestry's outdoor market is an important feature of the town



The town's indoor market is housed in the Powis Hall, offering a variety of services

service purposes. The hall was reconstructed in 1963.

The indoor market enjoyed a revamp in 2012 after winning an online voting competition in The Times newspaper in association with design company, My Deco. Various regular events are held in the market, including card making and craft sessions. The hall was

nominated for the competition by one of its market traders and it won the prize of £50,000 which was given in kind – the estimated cost of the advice from designer Sir Terence Conran and materials.

Work included a new glass lift, refurbishing the toilets, creating wi-fi facilities, a fresh lick of paint and hanging large canopies from the

ceiling. Oswestry's outdoor market on the Bailey Head is also an important feature of the town. Nearby attractions include Whittington Castle, Shelf Bank and the Cambrian Railway Museum. The railway museum reflects the town's industrial heritage.

The town's railway works was a major employer in the town for many years. A team

of volunteers have been working over the years to re-open the town's railway. One of its long term ambitions is to link the station at Oswestry to the mainline service at the nearby village of Gobowen. The volunteers run regular attractions at the station with all money raised going towards their ambition of fully reopening the line once again.

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NEWS IN BRIEF**Bomb experts are called out to castle**

BOMB disposal experts were called when a suspicious package was found in the grounds of historic Chirk Castle.

The National Trust property's gardens were cleared on Friday morning when the package was spotted on the fence line.

Local police were contacted and they in turn requested help from the specialist bomb disposal team.

Visitor services manager at the castle, John Hignett, said the package was found to be safe and the gardens re-opened.

"It was frustrating that the gardens had to be closed for a short time," he said.

"We followed our instructions for dealing with suspicious packages and the police in turn followed their procedures."

On their marks for canal triathlon

A TRIATHLON with a difference will be held along the length of a canal next month.

The Montgomery Canal Triathlon is held on May 6 and includes covering the 35 miles of the waterway, by bike, foot and canoe.

People can choose to enter, one, two or all three of the sections, from Newtown to Lower Frankton near Ellesmere.

Freda Davies, one of the organisers, said: "This is a fun event and not a race and so people can take time to enjoy the beautiful scenery and the wildlife along the canal."

"We attract everyone from families with children to experienced triathletes."

The day starts with the 17-mile cycling section from Severn Way, Newtown to Pool Quay, from 8.30am along cycleway standard towpath.

Walkers and runners start from the Crowther Hall Lock at Pool Quay from 10am travelling 11 miles of the canal.

A RE-DRAWING of one of Shropshire's busiest roundabouts will lead to road rage and accidents, an ambulance driver has claimed.

Months of roadworks are taking place at the five-way Gledrid island on the A5/A483 north of Oswestry.

The Highways Agency work includes putting in extra approach lanes on some of the roads.

The roundabout has become a notorious accident blackspot in recent years.

The island can often become heavily congested, causing tailbacks further along the busy truck route.

Accidents on or near the roundabout also lead to traffic being diverted through the nearby village of Gobowen or the town of Chirk. Road bosses hope the latest work will help improve the situation.

However, the work has brought concern from a local parish council and from residents. Peter Whittall, who lives in Weston Rhyn, said: "The so-called improvements are adding to the problems on the roundabout and are going to create more accidents."

A Welsh Ambulance Service driver, Mr Whittall, 55, said the markings showed drivers they could use two lanes on the island to remain on the trunk road in either direction or travel from Chirk to Oswestry.

That, he said, posed two problems.

"It means that drivers waiting to come out of Weston Rhyn or St Martins have two lanes of traffic to try to merge into.

"I can sit in traffic waiting to get on to the roundabout for several minutes," he said.

"Cars on the island will drift across the lanes – one nearly hit me as I was getting on to the island.

"The speed of the traffic going around the roundabout means drivers



The Gledrid roundabout can often get congested and has become an accident blackspot

don't have time to get on to it from the minor roads."

He said drivers then faced problems as they left the roundabout. "The two lanes quickly turn into one and that will take a lot of drivers by surprise," he said.

"I have seen emergency braking and near-misses already.

"There will be a lot of road rage. As a professional driver I can see that this is an accident waiting to happen. It's absolutely ludicrous."

The design of the roundabout has also been criticised by Weston Rhyn

Parish Council. Councillors have written to the contractor, Kier, asking for a review of the road markings.

Parish clerk Roger Dyke said councillors were concerned that drivers travelling from Weston Rhyn and St Martins would be unable to get on to the roundabout.

"Drivers going from Oswestry, Chirk, or the Chirk bypass can use both lanes on the roundabout.

"This means there will be constant traffic going across the island at a speed and volume that will make it very difficult for those emerging from

Weston Rhyn or St Martins," he said. "We have written to the contractor working on behalf of the Highways Agency."

Roadworks are expected to continue on the traffic island until June with traffic diverted through Chirk at certain times.

Mr Whittall said the roadworks were causing major delays particularly between the Halton and Gledrid roundabouts.

"We are also fed up of drivers cutting through Weston Rhyn on back lanes to avoid the delays," he said.

Access row sparks fears for campsite

IT has been one of the most popular Welsh seaside campsites among Shropshire and Midlands holiday-makers for generations.

Shell Island, a peninsula on the Mid Wales coast, sees tens of thousands of campers cross the causeway onto the site every year.

But now its owners fears the future of Shell Island, near Harlech, could be under threat because of changes to emergency access provision.

At high tide the causeway, the only public access, cuts off the site twice a day. However access is physically available across the Llanbedr Airfield which has been owned by the Welsh Government, for over 50 years.

The new tenant of the Llanbedr Airfield, Snowdonia Aerospace LLP, has withdrawn guaranteed 24-hour emergency services access to Shell Island.

Richard Workman, a company director of Shell Island, said that from this month and only on a temporary basis and at the discretion of Snowdonia Aerospace LLP, emergency services seeking access to Shell Island during high tides now had to call a mobile number issued by Snowdonia Aerospace LLP.

Snowdonia Aerospace LLP say they will open the access gate in an emergency, only at times of high tide, subject to the availability of their contact, so that the services can be escorted over the airfield. We don't think that is good enough and we'd like the Welsh Government to intervene," he said.

Shell Island in Gwynedd is one of the largest campsites in Europe and a much-loved family holiday destination. It provides significant employment for many families in the local community. They are all now facing an uncertain future."

He said the business was petitioning the Welsh Government, as owners of the Llanbedr Airfield, to urge Snowdonia Aerospace LLP to re-instate guaranteed and permanent high tide emergency services access so that Shell Island can continue to operate.

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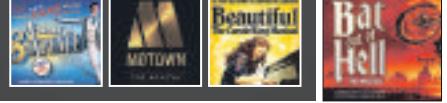
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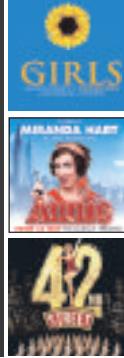
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Couple thanked for crucial help

A COUPLE have been thanked for their support of a charity which teaches children's life skills.

Maelor and Jeanette Owen have been involved in the Crucial Crew initiative for 20 years.

The initiative is supported by Oswestry Borderland Rotary Club.

The club was pleased to admit the couple to the Paul Harris Fellowship in recognition of their support for the Crucial Crew initiative.

Shrewsbury and Oswestry Crucial Crew was established in 1994.

In June every year the organisation holds an event over a two-week period at Nesscliffe Army Training Camp.

This is attended by up to 1,500 children from 40 to 60 primary schools in the Shrewsbury and Oswestry area.

The children receive social awareness and safety training as a means of teaching them essential life skills.

The event has been running for 23 years during which time over 24,000 children have attended.

The organisation was granted char-

ity status by the Charity Commission in June 2008.

The children travel to the training area at Nesscliffe in coaches funded by Oswestry Borderland Rotary Club who also make up a large portion of the volunteer chaperones.

Borderland Rotary Club John Croft and Oswestry Mayor Paul Milner attended the presentation of the fellowship awards to Maelor and Jeanette Owen. More information on Crucial Crew is available at shrewsburyoswestrycrucialcrew.com

Construction skills in demand

Commercial feature

North Shropshire College (NSC) and Reaseheath College are federated and between them offer a plethora of construction courses and apprenticeships in order to meet the increasing demands of the industry and local skills needs.

The construction sector offers well paid jobs and careers for people in a variety of trades and offers opportunities for sole traders, SMEs and larger national and international companies.

Disciplines

Both colleges offer practical courses and apprenticeships in a number of disciplines including; plumbing, bricklaying, joinery, electrical, painting and decorating, floor and wall tiling and construction skills. Pathways are available from levels one to three and many students make excellent progression whilst at college.

Industry work experience is a must for students studying within this area in order to gain recognised trade qualifications. Students at NSC have recently undertaken work experience on a new development of 46 homes being built for The Wrekin Housing Trust by contractor Jessup adjacent to the Oswestry Campus.

Trades

The students who are studying Level 1 and 2 Plumbing with City and Guilds have been able to spend up to two days on site and after being fully briefed about health and safety, have spent time observing all aspects of work from groundworks to plastering.

Level 2 students Cameron Oliver and Mitch Ellis said: "It has been great to see the entire site being worked on and talk with the different trades on site."



Peter McCann principal of NSC, Luke Butler assistant site manager from Jessup, Steve Morris clerk of works for The Wrekin Housing Trust, Cameron Oliver, Mitch Ellis, Nic Williams tutor at NSC, and Nigel Derry from Jessup

"Getting up onto the scaffold and seeing the roof and guttering works has been a highlight. We both feel inspired to look into apprenticeships to further our knowledge of construction and start a career."

Mikey Roberts, a former Level 3 Diploma in brickwork student at Reaseheath, always

wanted a career in construction and coming to the college helped him find his niche. Introduced to the industry through working with his dad and Reaseheath's schools' partnership programme, Mikey went on to complete Level 1, 2 and 3 in Brickwork.

Now an assistant site manager for Pochin

he's combining full time work with studying for a degree in construction management and surveying, and looks forward to seeing where his career will take him next.

He says: "Studying at Reaseheath fully prepared me for the world of work. I would recommend the construction department and



Former Reaseheath student Mikey Roberts, now assistant site manager at Pochin

Reaseheath to anyone the workshops and staff are brilliant."

For more information about how to apply visit the college websites via www.nsc.ac.uk and www.reaseheath.ac.uk or call the Admissions Team at NSC on 01691 688080 or at Reaseheath on 01270 613242.



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More families come forward over deaths

At least three families have come forward since Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt ordered an investigation into a number of cases of avoidable baby deaths involving Shropshire's hospital trust.

A Shropshire legal firm, which has represented people in cases of medical negligence against Shrewsbury & Telford NHS Trust (SATH), said three families had contacted them since the investigation, which was ordered in February, became public knowledge. Kay Kelly, who leads the medical negligence team at Lanyon Bowdler Solicitors, said: "I have long been concerned about the amount of cases referred to us, arising out of alleged mistakes made by the trust in the delivery of babies causing death and permanent injury." Glyn Davies, MP for Montgomeryshire, has raised concerns about the impact of the investigation on the ability of SATH to recruit staff and maintain safe services – and said a full transparent investigation was vital.

He said: "The real worry to me arising out of publicity is the negative impact it may have on consultants who might think about coming to work in Shropshire."

"There is already serious pressure on some services arising from an inability to attract consultants to Shropshire."

Inevitably, insufficient consultant cover means clinically unsafe services and then the migration of services out of Shropshire altogether and further away from Mid Wales.

"Over the last few months, I have developed a growing respect for the current SATH management, and expect a response based on fulsome apologies to every family affected, an intense investigation into every case and total transparency."

Movie season is announced

A FILM society has announced its fifth season of movies.

Oswestry Film Society is showing films on the first and third Tuesdays of each month from May to August.

The season starts on Tuesday next week with the acclaimed recent thriller Snowden.

They will be shown at Kinoculture in the town.

Film society member, Michael Hudson, said: "Our new season has the theme 'True Stories', we are showing eight films all based on real life events."

The BAFTA award-winning Lion starring Dev Patel and Nicole Kidman is one of the big movies coming up, Rachel Weisz and Timothy Spall star in the legal drama Denial, there is classic 1970s Redford and Hoffman in All The President's Men and the recent French classic comedy drama Unforgettable, among others.

A season ticket covering all eight films is available for just £24 and on the door tickets are available at £6 per film.

"Buy a season ticket and watch all eight films for just £3 a film, and you get to see them on the big screen, and support your local cinema at the same time," added Mr Hudson.

For more information on the society, visit oswestryfilmsociety.com or find the group on Facebook.

Row of garages go up in flames

A ROW of town centre garages went up in flames, with firefighters battling the blaze into the early hours.

Five crews were called to a fire which engulfed 12 garage units off Welshpool's Salop Road at about 9.30pm on April 15, and police have investigated what may have started the destructive blaze.

No-one was hurt in the fire, though a handful of nearby vehicles were either damaged or destroyed.

A spokesman for Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service said: "It was a property fire involving 12 units of about 60 metres by five metres. Two cars next to the units were destroyed by fire and another two had smoke and fire damage."

"There were 25 firefighters on the scene and it took them about three hours to put it out."

"It was quite a long-lasting incident, which was to do with the size of the property."

Everyone in the area was accounted for and there were no casualties.

Award delight for leading body shop business



Jonathan Jones of Arthurs, Richard Edwards and Lee Hitch of Fix Auto and Paul Northcote of Vauxhall Motors celebrate the achievement



Members of the Fix Auto workforce line up to celebrate their award

A VILLAGE near Oswestry is celebrating a top performance by one of its key businesses and major employers.

Fix Auto Oswestry (Pant Motor Bodies) of Llanymynech has beaten bodyshops in major cities and towns to win a Vauxhall Approved

Bodyshop of the Year award. Fix Auto and its sponsors Arthurs Vauxhall of Oswestry and Newtown have been presented with one of only four regional awards, with Fix Auto now qualifying for the national final in Battersea, London, on May 9.

Paul Northcote, bodyshop sales development manager for Vauxhall Motors, visited Llanymynech to present his region's winners with a prestigious Bodyshop of the Year 2016 Finalist plaque.

Fix Auto's managing director Lee Hitch,

whose father Robin started the business in 1973, said the firm was proud of all its 37 employees for meeting the exceptionally high standards set by Vauxhall. Arthurs managing director Nigel Williams said he was delighted Fix Auto had won the award.

Annual dinner recognises excellent community work



Mark Lloyd and his father Councillor David Lloyd at the civic dinner



Facilities manager at The New Saints Matt Lee, Alan Metcalfe and Oswestry Mayor Paul Milner



Mayor and Mayoress Paul Milner and Mandy Whittaker



Rob Smith, Mayor Paul Milner, Councillor David Lloyd and Owen Paterson

Report by Sue Austin

A MUSICIAN who has given more than 30 years to helping young people in a silver band and a football club which helps the community enjoy sport have received civic awards.

Alan Metcalfe is a mainstay of the Portway Silver Band's junior bands, giving up his time to help young people enjoy music.

He is himself a trombonist and has a great love of music. His work was recognised at Oswestry Town Council's civic dinner on Friday night.

In presenting the individual civic award, Mayor Paul Milner said Mr Metcalfe had given 32 years to working with young people and providing enjoyment for others through his own music talent.

He said: "Alan has been a mainstay of the beginner, young and training band giving endless voluntary hours to help the young people."

The community civic award was presented to The New Saints Football Club.

"It has redeveloped its facility at a cost of over £3 million, has a state-of-the-art 3G pitch and accommodates a major leisure development with extensive community use," the mayor said.

Facilities manager at The New Saints, Matt Lee, received the award.

Veteran Shropshire Councillor David Lloyd received the lifetime achievement award. Among those at the civic dinner were Councillor Lloyd's son Mark.

Guest speaker was Rob Smith, chief executive of the Society of Local Council Clerks.

North Shropshire MP Owen Paterson also attended the civic dinner while the Mayoress Mandy Whittaker was presented with flowers from the Mayor.

PROPERTY

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Four bedrooned barn conversion offers 'wow' factor

Packed with the "wow factor", Treginfold Barn in the hamlet of Kynaston near Kinnerley is a recently completed four bedroom barn conversion within equidistance of some 10 miles to Oswestry and Shrewsbury.

It is for sale through Balfours at £575,000.

Agent, Duncan Scobie, of Balfours said: "This is an exceptionally well designed conversion. While it dates back to the mid-1800s, its' recently completed conversion provides a magic mix of character and contemporary. That is maximised through original oak timbers quite literally highlighted through the magnificent expanses of glazing."

The entrance hall is found near central to the "L" shape footprint of the barn, off which the dining room runs through to the open plan living room. An inner hallway with a staircase and cloakroom off link to the extensive kitchen breakfast room; adjacent to which are the pantry and utility. A bedroom with an en-suite completes the ground floor configuration.

The wow factor is made the most of on the first floor with a magnificent gallery landing open to the glazed frontage. The master bedroom comes with fitted wardrobes and an en-suite, a further two bedrooms share the family bathroom. Duncan added: "The conversion has been beautifully executed with excellent craftsmanship and use of materials. At ground level there is underfloor heating with oak or limestone tiled floors throughout."

The impressive approach to Treginfold Barn is through electric double gates to the long gravel drive. A double garage incorporates downstairs storage and a WC, as well as a first floor office which further extends the amenities. A terrace and patio to the front and are ideal entertaining areas linking to grounds. Dating back to 1859, Treginfold Barn originally formed the old threshing barn of nearby Treginfold Farm. Finished in 2016, the property holds a Builders Certificate (Professional Consultants Certificate) with a six year warranty. The main barn is made of brick and sandstone under a slate roof and the garage is made with a Douglas fir frame, European larch cladding and block set under a slate roof.

KEY FEATURES

- Detached
- Countryside views
- Oak features
- Outside office
- Four bedrooms

KYNASTON



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Detached property on a substantial private plot

OSWESTRY
£176,500

A charming detached three-bedroomed property on a substantial plot, 74 Llys Road, Oswestry is well presented throughout and has parking for numerous vehicles.

With generous lawned gardens and a wood burning stove in the lounge, it is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £176,500. With gas central heating and double glazing, its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hallway, a lounge with the wood-burning stove, a dining room, a kitchen, three bedrooms and a bathroom.

The private gardens include a generous lawned area with hedging and fencing for privacy with a paved patio area and shrubbed borders.

Contact Morris Marshall & Poole for more details on 01691 679595.



Brand new bungalow is in quiet lane in centre of village

TREFLACH
£215,000 <<<

A brand new individually designed two bedroom detached bungalow, Chapel Cottage, Stoney Road, in Trefflach, is located on a quiet lane in the centre of the village.

The property is on the market through JJ Dell&Co with a guide price of £215,000 and there is no chain. The home benefits from under floor heating and pvc double glazing. There is an entrance hall, two double bedrooms, a bathroom and ensuite, a kitchen living area and a utility and cloakroom. The property also benefits from parking. The property occupies a central position in the village of Trefflach with local pub and bus services. The property has off-street parking to the front and to the sides and rear is an enclosed lawned garden area with paved walkways.

For more information about the property contact JJ Dell&Co on 01691 653437 and 680212.

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- Bathroom
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- Parking
- Close Cul De Sac Location
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- JJD971

OSWESTRY



GUIDE PRICE £179,950

- Period Semi-Detached House Offering Excellent Potential
- Reception Hall
- Living Room
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
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- Driveway Providing Off Street Parking
- Front And South Facing Rear Garden
- EPC Band - G
- JJD957

ST. MARTINS



GUIDE PRICE £265,000

- Detached Three Bed. Bungalow On Generous Plot
- Gfch & Dg
- Entrance Hall
- Living Room
- Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Wc Room
- Garden/Store
- Four Workshops
- Gardens And Ample Parking
- EPC Band - E
- JJD960

WEST FELTON



GUIDE PRICE £289,950

- Attractive Detached Country Cottage
- On Country Lane Location
- Kitchen
- Cloakroom And Study
- Living Room
- Three Bedrooms
- Garage And Ample Parking
- Opposite Half Acre Plot
- Large South Facing Rear Garden
- EPC Band-F
- JJD927

TREFLACH



GUIDE PRICE £212,500

- New Price!
- Brand New Individually Designed Bungalow
- Quiet Location In Centre Of Village
- Under Floor Heating
- Pvc Double Glazing
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- Kitchen/Living Area
- Utility And Cloakroom
- Two Double BedRooms
- Bathroom And En-Suite
- Enclosed Lawned Garden Area
- EPC Band - E
- JJD932

OSWESTRY



GUIDE PRICE £137,000

- New Price!
- Attractive Bungalow Located In Quiet Cul De Sac
- Walking Distance Of Town Centre
- Gfch & Dg
- Living Room
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Two BedRooms
- Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Two Parking Spaces
- EPC Band - C
- JJD956

OSWESTRY



GUIDE PRICE £159,950

- Spacious Town House In Sought After Location
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PANT



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- EPC Band - E
- JJD087

OSWESTRY - TO LET



RENT - £12,500

- Excellent Bar/Restaurant Premises
- OCCUPYING BUSY TRADING AREA
- Short Distance From Major Retailers And Institutions
- Covered Porch
- Reception Area
- Beer Cellar And Bar Area
- Kitchen And Lounge
- Function Room
- Male/Female/Disabled Toilets
- EPC Band - Awaited
- JJD931

OSWESTRY - FOR SALE BY TENDER



GUIDE PRICE £35,000

- For Sale By Informal Tender
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Victorian end of terrace home is well maintained

OSWESTRY
£167,500

A Victorian end of terrace property with three bedrooms, 74 York Street, Oswestry is tastefully decorated and well maintained throughout.

It is for sale through Town & Country at £167,500. Its accommodation comprises an entrance hallway, a lounge/dining room, a beautifully fitted kitchen, three bedrooms and a luxury family bathroom.

The property is warmed by gas central heating and double glazing. To the outside is a garage, a small front garden, a private side garden and a rear yard with storage and a shed. Number 74 is conveniently located and within walking distance of Oswestry town centre which has an abundance of local amenities including schools and leisure facilities.

Contact Town & Country on 01691 679631.



Home is full of key features and enjoys great views

PECKNALL
£875,000 <<<

Privacy, panoramic views and a swimming pool, pile on the appeal at Shotton Farm, near Halfway House.

Key features don't stop there. This four bedroom family home has a two bedroom guest or extended family annex, two acres, two offices with kitchenette and a double garage. Located equi-distance, 10 miles from Shrewsbury and Welshpool in the hamlet of Pecknall, Shotton Farm is found beyond a long private drive in an elevated position with fabulous views over the beautiful Breidden Hills and the Marches border country west of Shrewsbury.

The total footprint at Shotton Farm, incorporating a double garage and two good sized offices, account for 482 square metres. Balfours are marketing Shotton Farm with a guide price of £875,000.

For more information call Balfours on 01743 353511 or visit www.balfours.co.uk

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ellesmere@bowensonandwatson.co.uk

Wrexham

01978 340000

1 King Street, Wrexham, LL11 1HF

wrexham@bowensonandwatson.co.uk

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01978 860346

34 Castle Street, Llangollen, LL20 8RT

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01691 772443

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chirk@bowensonandwatson.co.uk

NEW

Hampton Road

£295,000

- 4 Bedroom Detached Property
- Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room.
- Kitchen, Utility and Store Room
- 4 Bedrooms and a Family Bathroom
- Excellent plot offering a large rear garden
- Front garden and brick paved driveway
- Ample off road parking and a single garage
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- EPC Rating D. NO CHAIN

NEW

Trefonen Road

Oswestry

NEW


£325,000

- Superb Detached Family Residence situated in one of Oswestry's premier locations
- Views over Maes Y Lan Playing Fields and the Shropshire Plain beyond
- Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen with large Dining Area
- Utility, Cloakroom and Dining Room/
- Gas central heating and double glazing, EPC Rating D. NO CHAIN
- Bedroom 4
- 3 excellent BedRooms, En-Suite Shower Room and Luxury Bathroom
- Good size plot with front & rear gardens, ample off road parking and garage
- Gas central heating and double glazing, EPC Rating D. NO CHAIN

NEW


Middleton Road

Oswestry

NEW


£195,000

- A well appointed 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached House
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen
- Utility, Cloakroom and Conservatory
- 3 good size BedRooms and a Family Bathroom
- The property stands on a well proportioned plot
- Brick driveway to the fore and delightful rear garden.
- Gas central heating and double glazing

NEW


Vyrrwy Place

Oswestry

£79,950

- Well presented 1 Bed Leasehold Ground Floor Apartment
- Ent Hall, Kitchen, Lounge, Bedroom and Bathroom
- Own garden and garage
- D/G and electric storage heaters
- An EnviroVent ventilation system
- EPC Rating F (31). NO CHAIN

NEW

Balmoral Crescent

Oswestry

£164,995

- An excellent 3 Bedroom Detached Family Home
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/ Dining Room.
- Conservatory, 3 BedRooms and Shower Room
- Generous gardens, garage and off road parking
- uPVC double glazing and gas central heating.
- EPC Rating D (62). NO CHAIN

NEW

Cae Onan

Morda

NEW


£60,000

- THIS PROPERTY IS FOR SALE ON A 50% SHARED OWNERSHIP BASIS WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE FURTHER SHARES
- An immaculately presented 2 Bedroom End of Terrace House
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen and Cloakroom
- 2 excellent BedRooms and a Family Bathroom
- Good size enclosed rear garden and off road parking
- Gas central heating and double glazing

NEW PRICE


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Llanymynech

£359,995

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NEW

Ashlands Road

Weston Rhyn

£114,995

- THIS PROPERTY CAN BE PURCHASED ON A 50% SHARED OWNERSHIP BASIS OR AS A WHOLE
- A well presented 2 Bedroom Modern House
- Living Room, Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Front and rear gardens
- Off road parking for 2 vehicles.
- Gas central heating and uPVC double glazing
- EPC Rating B - 82

NEW

Balmoral Crescent

Oswestry

NEW


£234,995

- Spacious and well appointed 5 Bedroom Detached House with Annex accommodation
- Porch, Ent Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Dining Room
- 5 first floor BedRooms and Family Bathroom
- Annex accommodation comprises:
- Large patio with covered seating area with lawned garden beyond.
- Tarmac driveway to the fore provides ample off road parking
- Gas central heating and double glazing

NEW PRICE


Oak Street

Oswestry

£114,950

- A superbly presented and spacious 2 Bedroom End-Terrace House
- Retaining many character features including original fireplaces
- Ent Hall, Lounge, Dining Room & Kitchen
- 2 Double BedRooms and a Bathroom
- Walled gravelled rear garden with patio
- Gas C/H, D/G. EPC Rating E (40)

NEW


Castle Street

Oswestry

£98,000

- Spacious 2 Bed End Terrace House
- Contains a host of original features
- Ent Hall, Living Room and Kitchen
- 2 good size BedRooms, Bathroom
- Enclosed front & rear gardens
- Allocated parking to rear
- Gas C/H & D/G. EPC Rating NO CHAIN

NEW

Oakwood Grange

Morda

£249,950

- BRAND NEW - Oakwood Grange is a small residential development on the edge of the popular village of Morda being just over 1 mile from the town centre of Oswestry.
- There are only two spacious 4 bedroom detached houses with garage available
- Open plan Lounge/Kitchen, Utility, Cloakroom
- 4 BedRooms (master en-suite) & Family Bathroom
- Gas central heating and double glazing will be installed as standard
- All properties will be completed to the highest specification and will have the benefit of a 10 year warranty.

NEW

Berwyn Avenue

Chirk Bank

NEW


£215,000

- spacious and well positioned 3 Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- Situated in the popular hamlet of Chirk Bank
- The property is situated on a good size plot
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen
- 2 Double BedRooms, a Single
- Bedroom & Family Bathroom
- Driveway and garage to the fore and large rear garden
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- NO CHAIN

NEW PRICE


Ardmillan Close

Oswestry

£314,950

- Rare opportunity to purchase a 3 Bedroom Detached House with a self contained 2 Bed Annex
- The main house accommodation: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen
- Rear Hall, Utility & Cloaks, 3 Double BedRooms, Bathrm & Separate Shower Rm
- The annex accommodation: Living Room, Kitchen, 2 Beds and Bathrm
- Both having gas central heating and double glazing
- Ample off road parking and garage together with enclosed gardens

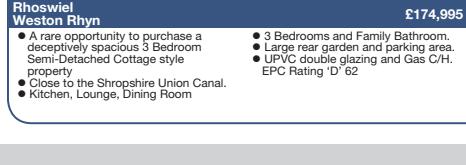
NEW

Church View

Hadnall

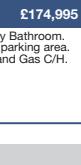
£345,000

- BRAND NEW 4 Bedroom Detached Family Home with Integral Garage
- Open plan Kitchen/Diner, Utility Room.
- Spacious Living Room with bay window and Cloakroom
- Master Bedroom with fitted wardrobes and En-suite.
- Three further BedRooms and Family Bathroom
- Enclosed rear garden, Integral Garage and Driveway.
- PAIR EXCHANGE OR HELP TO BUY IS AVAILABLE (Help to Buy Price £26,000)

NEW PRICE


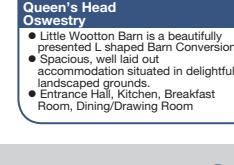
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NEW PRICE


£174,995

- A rare opportunity to purchase a deceptively spacious 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached Cottage style property
- Close to the Shropshire Union Canal.
- Kitchen, Lounge, Dining Room
- 3 BedRooms and Family Bathroom.
- Large rear garden and parking area.
- UPVC double glazing and Gas C/H. EPC Rating 'D' 62

NEW PRICE


Queen's Head

Oswestry

£450,000

- Little Wootton Barn is a beautifully presented L-shaped Barn Conversion
- Spacious, well laid out accommodation situated in delightful landscaped grounds.
- Entrance Hall, Kitchen, Breakfast Room, Dining/Drawing Room
- Cloakroom, Master Bedroom (en-suite) 4 BedRooms
- 2 Bath/Shower Rooms and Study.
- Double garages together with ample off road parking and garage
- EPC Rating E (51). NO CHAIN

NEW


Whittington

Road

£99,500

- Well equipped retail unit situated in a prominent position
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HYSSINGTON

£330,000

Refurbished stone built cottage enjoys far reaching views

A refurbished detached stone built cottage, Ivy Cottage at Hyssington, Montgomery has far reaching views over the surrounding countryside.

It is for sale through Balfours at £330,000.

It has an entrance hall, a sitting room, dining room, study, four bedrooms, a kitchen, conservatory, bathroom, one en-suite, lawn, parking and a garage.

Ivy Cottage is situated in a delightful rural position on the eastern fringes of the village of Church Stoke between Montgomery and Bishops Castle.

The area is well served with a range of local amenities including the renowned Harry Tuffins supermarket, whilst a more comprehensive range can be found in Shrewsbury, Ludlow and Newtown. Both Welshpool and Craven Arms have regional rail links to the intercity network and there are good road



communications to both the West Midlands via the M54 and South Wales.

This area of the country is popular not only for its beauty but for its abundance of recreational opportunities. There are lovely walks and rides throughout the surrounding South Shropshire hills and nearby Offa's Dyke. Other opportunities include racing at Ludlow and golf at Welshpool, Ludlow, Church Stretton and Shrewsbury.

Ivy Cottage is a refurbished detached stone built cottage with accommodation over two floors. The property retains many attractive and period features. It is presented to a very high standard and is well proportioned throughout with views over the surrounding countryside.

The ground floor provides two reception rooms, a study and a modern kitchen which leads to a large traditionally constructed conservatory to the rear of the house.

The first floor has four good sized double bedrooms including an en suite and a family bathroom.

Outside, the gardens of the property include a lawned area, a patio and a gravel driveway with a garage and off street parking. Balfours represents the very best in property services for all its clients across the country in a friendly and professional manner, said a spokesman for the selling agents.

For more details contact Balfours on 01743 353511.

Idyllic detached country cottage in an elevated position has great views

LLANRHEADR

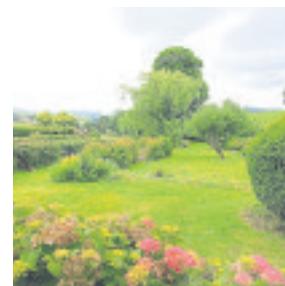
£250,000

>>>

An idyllic detached country cottage set in an elevated position, Rhiwlas, Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant, Oswestry has outstanding views over the Tanat Hills and surrounding countryside.

It is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson who offers in excess of £250,000 with no chain. The property is a short walk from the centre of the village. The spacious accommodation comprises an entrance hall, a lounge, a dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility and ground floor shower room whilst on the first floor there are three double bedrooms, (one en-suite), and a separate family bathroom. Oil central heating is installed throughout. Outside the property stands in large lawned gardens and has ample off road parking together with a single garage. To the rear there is a concrete shed and former pig sties. The property is situated in the picturesque village of Llanrhaeadr in the stunning Berwyn Mountains. The village itself offers a good range of local amenities including an excellent primary school, grocery stores, newsagents, doctors surgery, dental clinic and several public houses.

Contact Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367.



Superb equestrian property comes with annexe, stables and land

MORTON, OSWESTRY

£750,000

<<<

A superb 5.5-acre equestrian country property near Oswestry with stables, a manège and paddocks is on offer with agents Halls for £750,000.

Pool Cottage, Morton, Oswestry comprises a well presented four bedroomed house, a detached two bedroomed annexe, attractively landscaped gardens, an extensive range of outbuildings and first class equine facilities. Offering a wealth of characterful exposed timbers, Pool Cottage has a reception hall/office, living room, sitting room with a feature brick inglenook, superb fitted kitchen/dining room with granite worktops, integrated appliances and French doors to the rear garden, a utility/boot room and cloakroom on the ground floor. Upstairs there is an en-suite master bedroom with a Juliette balcony, a second en-suite bedroom and two further bedrooms served by a family bathroom.

Contact Halls on 01691 670320.



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2 Glanrafon Cottages, Pentre Felin £229,950

Well located in the small hamlet of Pentre Felin in the Tanat Valley. Currently affording two bedrooms, bathroom, two reception rooms and kitchen. Oil-fired Rayburn Range to the kitchen providing domestic hot water. Partial electric heating and secondary glazing. Attached is a single bedroom cottage subject to a protected tenancy - known as number 1. Good sized gardens, range of detached outbuildings and scope for improvement. EPC rating = 1(G)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



1 Police Houses, Gobowen £165,995

Link detached house with single garage within easy reach of good quality local amenities. Three bedrooms and recently fitted bathroom. Open plan living/dining/kitchen with new fitted units, utility and ancillary store and w.c. Double glazing, gas-fired central heating, cavity wall and enhanced loft insulation. In good decorative order and recently fitted carpets and vinyl floor coverings. Enclosed lawned gardens to both front and rear. Drive approach to

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



Domgay House & Chapel, Four Crosses £550,000

Substantial and imposing Grade II Listed house which dates from around 1800. Maintained to a high standard. Lounge, dining room, breakfast kitchen and utility, three generous bedrooms, en-suite and main bathroom. Attached Grade II Listed former Chapel about 970 Sq.ft. Ample parking and a useful outbuilding adjacent to the garden. EPC not required (Grade II Listed).

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



Benvenuti, Morton, Oswestry £950,000

Exceptional detached country home affording 6,600 sq ft of high quality accommodation. Set in enclosed landscaped gardens of approx 1.5 acres. Well located just off the A483 with excellent road links through to the major conurbations of Birmingham, Manchester & Liverpool. Reception hall, generous reception rooms overlooking the gardens, "Kenton Jones" kitchen, five bedrooms, five bath/shower rooms, sauna, triple garage. EPC= 64(D)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



Tontine Inn, Melverley £495,000

Former Public House now affords a large detached residence, well maintained accommodation in a pleasant location. Recently up-graded home or offers an opportunity for B & B. Oil C/H, large sun room, open-plan living/dining room with impressive fireplace. Seven bedrooms all have en-suite bathroom or shower facilities. The grounds afford a range of useful detached stores/workshop or garage. EPC Rating = 65 (C)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



The Old School, Meifod £90,000

Detached Former Village School situated within the Church grounds. Development opportunity subject to the necessary planning consent being obtained.

Welshpool Office 01938 554818



Bliss Cottage, 4 Hendre, Llangadfan £169,950

Semi-detached period cottage, located in a small rural hamlet. Heated by an oil fuelled boiler and includes; lounge, dining room and kitchen on the ground floor and two bedrooms and wet-room on the first floor. Attractive gardens to front and side which back onto woodland and have a sunny aspect with good views over the surrounding countryside. No chain. EPC Rating = E(45)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



32 Lower Belle Vue, Morda £122,500

Semi detached house in village location. Lounge and fitted kitchen/breakfast room. Three bedrooms and fitted bathroom. Gas-fired central heating and double glazing. Gardens to both front and rear. Good local amenities and access to Oswestry. Available with no onward chain. EPC Rating = 53 (E)

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Oakwood Grange, Morda Prices From: £159,950

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Welshpool 01938 554818
Aberdyfi (window display)

Homeowners waste millions with wrong mortgage deal

Some £2.78 billion is wasted each year in the UK by 1.1million households sitting on the wrong mortgage deal, new research suggests.

On top of this 30 per cent or 3.4 million households don't know the current interest rate of their mortgage and by switching to a better deal home owners could save on average over £2,500 annually.

Overall 36 per cent of homeowners are on a Standard Variable Rate mortgage (SVR) which are typically higher with people in London paying £266 more than they should each month, says the research from L&C Mortgages.

It points out that if interest rates rise, as the Bank of England has hinted is a possibility, the four million people who are on SVR mortgages could see their payments rise further.

Savings

L&C analysed both external research and internal data which examined the type of mortgage deals home owners are on, their outstanding loan size and the remaining term before identifying a potentially better rate to calculate the savings they could make on their monthly mortgage payments.

The mortgage adviser found that by switching to a better deal, UK homeowners can save themselves £216 each month or over £2,500 annually but 58 per cent of people have never re-mortgaged to save money.

The firm believes that this is particularly worrying given the recent news that inflation is at its highest point since June 2014, energy prices are rising and there is the potential for interest rates to rise as well.

A spokesman said: "It's worrying to see so many people still on a Standard Variable Rate mortgage as they are not the cheapest rates available."



"Not only is there a lack of awareness around how much could be saved but worse still a huge number of people have never even tried to remortgage to get a better deal," said David Hollingworth from L&C Mortgages.

"With the cost of living on the rise and day-to-day expenses like energy prices soaring, it is hugely concerning to see that people are paying so much more than they should be."

"On top of this, our research shows

that while homeowners believe they are paying too much for their mortgage they still aren't taking action to cut their monthly payments," he explained.

Overpaying

"Not only have we found over a third of home owners are on their bank or building society's standard variable rate, but 3.4million people don't know their mortgage rate."

"The chances are they could potentially

save hundreds or even thousands of pounds a year by re-mortgaging to a new deal," he added.

L&C also looked into which of the UK regions who are overpaying the most and unsurprisingly London topped the table with an average monthly overspend of £266.

The South of England and the Midlands collectively overspend by an average of £222 and the North is paying £201 more than they should be.

Young bank on inheritance to get on housing ladder

One in four young people who do not own a home are pinning their hopes on an inheritance to help them on the property ladder, research has found.

Some 25 per cent of 18 to 34-year-olds are relying on an inheritance to buy their first home, according to Halifax.

The same proportion (25 per cent) think they will never own their own home.

Nearly half (48 per cent) of those surveyed think it is harder than ever to get on the property ladder – with nearly one in five (18 per cent) saying they would consider leaving the UK to buy their own home.

One in seven (14 per cent) young non-homeowners think they will be renting for the rest of their lives. Two-thirds (65 per cent) of those surveyed said they do not earn enough to buy their own home.

Various government schemes have been unveiled in recent years to give people a helping hand onto the property ladder, including Help to Buy and Lifetime Isas, which are set to launch in April. A housing white paper has also recently been launched to help home buyers and renters.

Figures from the English Housing Survey recently showed that one in five



households in England is living in private rented accommodation, while home ownership has fallen to its lowest level in 30 years.

Home ownership eased down from 63.6 per cent in 2014/15 to 62.9 per cent last year – the lowest proportion since 1985 and eight percentage points down on its peak of 70.9 per cent in 2003.

Martin Ellis, a housing economist at

Halifax, said many young people feel they are running a "financial gauntlet" – by saving for a deposit, finding an affordable property in the right area and funding living costs.

He said: "It's never too early to do some research to help build a better understanding of how much is affordable, the borrowing options available and calculating what's

achievable to help make owning a property more of a reality."

Some 1,500 18 to 34-year-olds from across the UK took part in the research.

Here are some tips from Halifax for would-be home buyers:

- Try out calculators and tools: you can work out how much you could borrow, how much deposit you would need and what monthly payments would be
- Work out your mortgage options. A mortgage adviser can give a clearer idea of your options. Some lenders will allow first-time buyers to borrow up to 95 per cent of the property value, or you may have someone to guarantee the mortgage.
- Do your research on any schemes or incentives that could make buying a property in the area you want more affordable such as shared equity.
- Create a money plan. Working out how much you will need for monthly costs will help you understand kind of mortgage you can afford, factoring in bills and expenses.
- Check your credit score a year before you plan to get a mortgage and keep track of it.



Research shows homes earning £1.7m for retired property owners

New research by KeyRetirement.com has highlighted that retired homeowners have earned £1.7m in property wealth in the last three months alone, with the property wealth of over 65s who have paid off their mortgage reaching a record high of £1.072 trillion in February.

Since KeyRetirement.com started their index in 2010, the average retired homeowner has seen an added £66,000 of property value, that's a 37 per cent increase.

The website has been quick to praise these latest figures as a success story for property investment, but leading online estate agent eMoov.co.uk doesn't believe this is a positive story, particularly for those whom homeownership is a continually unobtainable goal.

Nationwide data shows that the first-time buyer gross house price to earnings ratio across the UK is 5.3, the highest peak since 2007.

This is, of course, considerably higher in the nation's stronger markets, peaking at 10.1 in London.

On top of this, latest property industry indices such as Rightmove and Halifax, show that UK house prices have continued their upward trend despite the current turbulence of the market, albeit it at a slightly slower rate.

eMoov CEO, Russell Quirk, believes that this highlights a severe dysfunctionality within the UK property market and a key contribution to the current housing crisis.

Increase

Founder and CEO of eMoov.co.uk, Russell Quirk, commented: "Whilst those lucky enough to have climbed the UK property ladder continue to see their assets increase in value, beleaguered first-time buyers continue to struggle due to the constant inflation of UK house prices."

This is by no means an attack on previous generations and anyone who has worked hard enough to earn their own piece of our pleasant land, regardless of what they paid at the time, should be commended for doing so not ridiculed.

Most of us rely on our property investment for retirement and to leave a legacy to our children, but now it has reached a point where inheritance is the only viable method for the majority to get on the ladder and many are holding out to maximise the amount they can make on their property.

As a result, whilst they remain in large family houses years after their children have fled the nest, young families elsewhere are unable to get on the ladder due to a severe shortage of stock.

"This is undoubtedly a contributing factor behind today's housing crisis and should be addressed and rectified, not celebrated as these latest figures seem to do."

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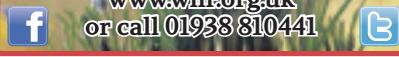


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Good things come in small packages

He describes himself as an old man who wants to complain about the world but offer no solutions. Jon Richardson is the archetypal Grumpy Old Man – who is both grumpy and old before his time.

And the quietly sophisticated comedian will thrill fans when he headlines Birmingham's Hippodrome on Thursday as part of a national tour.

The show follows on from his recent TV hit, How to Survive the End of the World, for Channel 4, which was screened earlier this year.

He says: "The show was basically a small terrified man and his (would you believe it) even smaller and sometimes more terrified wife making a list of the things that they're scared might kill them, and then me going out and looking into them one by one, in the hope that I can come home and tell her, 'D'you know what, actually these are all irrational fears. We don't need to worry about any of them, and we can get on with our lives as normal'.

Jon was supposed to investigate major dangers, such as terrorism, but digressed into looking at the state of sausages and air pollution.

"I think I'm quite small, I don't think that helps. I feel quite small in a lot of ways. And I also think I'm right – we're all going to die of something, and there's just a lot of awful stuff in the world. I know that's not a particularly upbeat message, particularly coming from a comedian, but that's all that life is, really: Dealing with horrific stuff and trying to make it funny," he says.

DEMEANOUR

"I think it's more that it impacts on my demeanour. We've had a couple of incidents where we haven't done things as a family: We'll avoid built-up areas, so there's times when we actually have changed events. But it's more that sort of constant fear of things just stops you being the person you'd like to be. I don't know if this has come across in our dealings so far, but I wouldn't say I'm a particularly sparkling, upbeat person to talk to. I need all the help I can get, so if I could at least not have that voice in the back of my head that's always telling me to look left and look right and look up, and breathe through my nose and not through my mouth, so it's double-filtered, and all those silly things, maybe I'd be a better person if I could live more in the moment."

Jon's wife is also a worrier and they often end up freaking another out, rather than winding each other up. There are times when it might be easier for both of them to simply go and see a psychiatrist.

"It would, but that would be a selfish route to my goal! It would sort me out, but I am in the role of giving to the wider community, and that's why I'm willing to film my investigations and put them on telly. You will see a genuine upsurge in the wellbeing of Britain. I would say, in the 2-3 weeks after this, there will be an immediate spike. And then in the six to 12 months afterwards we'll start to see the economic benefit of my work."

Jon found a number of weird scenarios in his new TV show. The strangest was meeting a man called Troy in Canada.

"What you often find with these documentaries is that everyone you meet could easily have a documentary all to themselves. People's lives are fascinating, and this documentary was certainly like that. Every issue we looked into, you could have spent not just one documentary, but a series looking into it. As for Troy – there should be some Kardashians or Osbornes-style documentary. For a start there should be a webcam on him all the time, just so that we

Young fogey – Jon's old and grumpy before his time



*I wouldn't say
I'm a particularly
sparkling, upbeat
person to talk to*

can tune in and watch him for a bit. He gave us so much footage. He's not just invented an anti-bear suit.

"He's invented what he thinks is an improved Kevlar. It's a lighter-weight, more flexible, bullet and bomb-proof outfit for the army, which he's just made himself in his garage.

"He's created a chemical which he says if you drop it in an ocean, it'll separate the oil from the water, so that you can clear up the oil from an oil spill in minutes rather than weeks.

"He's invented his own laser, which he points at his own head daily, to regenerate hair growth. He's one of the most intriguing people I've met in my life. We filmed with him in the bear suit, testing it by driving through a brick wall.

"The hours in his laboratory were so intense. We could have just aired that unedited. And there's a genuine possibility that he's invented something that could change the world, and no-one's listening to him. Because he sounds so intense, you end up just shuffling out of the room, because he's just terrifying to be with. But undoubtedly he was the most intriguing, and if I was more of a Louis Theroux type, I'd definitely go back and do a full week with him."

Chase and Status plus Annie Mac at V

Chase and Status and Annie Mac, pictured, will perform at this year's V Festival, it has been announced.

They will join the weekend's headline performers Pink, Jay Z, Rudimental and Ellie Goulding, organisers have said.

The DJs will play sets at the Weston Park festival on Friday, August 18, on the BBC Radio 1 stage.

Joining them will also be Radio 1 DJs Danny Howard and Mistajam. Grammy nominated Duke

Dumont will also step up to the decks in Staffordshire with his huge chart smashes, Need U (100%), I Got U and Won't Look Back, which will set the pace for the huge evening ahead.

Rounding off a jam-packed night of live dance music is South London trio Disciples who soared to the top of the charts in February 2015 with They Don't Know.

The deep house act followed it up with their Calvin Harris collaboration on 'How Deep Is Your Love' and released 'On My Mind' which Mistajam featured as his hottest record in the world.

It is 10 years since Pink

made her debut V appearance. Festival promoters say the pop icon will be entertaining the crowd with her elaborate stagecraft and choreography. With more than 100 million records sold and a 20-year career, Jay Z is one of the best-selling musicians of all time. Although the US rapper is almost better known as Mr Beyoncé for young music fans having not had a solo album out for almost four years. The 47-year-old has not toured since 2013-14. V Festival will take place at the stately home Weston Park, which is on the Staffordshire-Shropshire border, on August 19 and 20.



Coming up

Original girl group line-up is back

Bananarama, the girl group that defined the 80s, are back to their original, record-breaking line-up for a tour this November.

This will be the only time they tour in the original line-up of Siobhan Fahey, Sara Dallin and Keren Woodward.

The tour will be the first time Sara, Keren and Siobhan have ever toured together. The 15-date tour will arrive in Birmingham on November 23 when they play at the Barclaycard Arena.

"Keren and I have toured as a duo for years, but we never toured or played live with Siobhan," explains Sara. "We've been talking about this idea for a while and now the moment has finally arrived it's incredibly exciting. Lots of fans have often asked 'please just do one tour with Siobhan,' so now their wishes have come true."

"We'll be performing all the hits and some surprises too. I really can't wait it's gonna be an amazing party every night," says Keren.

"These were my formative years," adds Siobhan. "I never thought it would happen again. It's like going back down the road to find a piece of myself that I left back then. The older I get, the more I realise it was pretty magical."

Since their last performance as a trio on The Brits in 1988, Keren and Sara have continued as Bananarama, releasing records and touring. Siobhan went on to have hit singles and albums around the world as part of Shakespears Sister.



Gin revolution leads to first ever festival for area

The artisan gin revolution sweeping across Wales and the borders will be showcased at the first-ever Mid Wales Gin Festival in May.

The festival, which takes place on May 27 at The Pavilion, Llandrindod Wells, will feature more than 30 small-batch gins from 20 local distilleries. Producers will be on hand to explain the gin-making process and describe the local foraging for botanicals and there will even be a gin still on display.

Swing Time from the 1930s and 40s will provide the backdrop for the festival party, and other attractions will be a live six-piece swing band, Donnie Joe's American Swing, prizes for dressing up, a video DJ and swing dancing displays and beginners' lessons by Mid Wales Jive.

Tickets for either the afternoon or evening session are £8 and available at eventbrite.com, booking fee applies, or Arvon Ale House, Temple Street, Llandrindod.

The festival has been organised by Laura Gallagher and John Buckley, licensees of Arvon Ale House, who won the Campaign for Real Ale Pub of the Year and Cider Pub of the Year for Wales last year.

The couple moved to Powys from London seeking a more peaceful way of life and ended up, two years ago, transforming an empty shop in Temple Street, Llandrindod Wells into a micropub, focussed mainly on selling real ales after spotting a gap in the market.

Laura began researching locally distilled gin after discovering that, unlike wine and some other drinks, it didn't give her indigestion. After attending a gin festival in Cardiff, she and John decided to organise one of their own in Mid Wales.

"There are not enough Welsh gins to make it a Welsh festival, but when you add on the bordering English counties, there are plenty," explained John. "We sell six different Welsh gins at Arvon Ale House and it's amazing how many flavours are crammed into them."



NOTICE BOARD

Comper for the evening is the Liberty Pink who will charm, tease and dazzle with her wit and singing voice.

Students will kick off the evening at 7.30pm with a specially prepared performance to showcase the 1920s theme. This will be followed by Jazz Jive Swing's fun style of dance class.

Live music is from DJR and local band Hot Jazz Biscuits and there will be burlesque and circus performers.

There will also be food platters served and a cocktail bar.

Dress code is optional 1920s high glamour, swing and flapper, feather boas,

red lipstick, high heels and faux fur. Tickets are priced at £40 each and are available from bookings@derwen.ac.uk

* ARTISTS, innovators and entrepreneurs leading the digital revolution in Wales are to be showcased at FOCUS Wales 2017, an event featuring 200 bands and venues across Wrexham town centre.

More than 7,000 visitors and music industry representatives from around the world are expected to visit the event from May 11-13.

Music, art, theatre and comedy, and an interactive conference programme featuring experts from all aspects of the music industry will feature.

Digital Innovations day on the Saturday is a new addition to the FOCUS

Wales interactive conference programme for 2017. Visitors to the event will be able to enjoy panel discussions with experts and trend setters from around the world, an interactive expo featuring some of the most exciting new technologies

on the market, live performances from artists who use technology to bring their shows to life, and a networking reception featuring an address from Welsh Cabinet Secretary for the Economy and Transport Ken Skates. A range of free educational resources will also be developed especially for the event, ensuring its impact is felt far and wide, and it serves to support the next generation of creative entrepreneurs.

For more information visit www.focuswales.com/diddad.

Peter and friends on an adventure

Newtown Musical Theatre Company is preparing to set sail for the second star to the right in its performance of Peter Pan.

Peter Pan – A Musical Adventure will see Peter, played by Dawn Jones, accompanied throughout the show by mischievous Tinkerbell, played by Bev Dunkley.

Tinkerbell will be turning up in unexpected places and causing havoc.

Last spring Bev starred as the Baker's Wife in the company's production of Into the Woods.

Craig Harris from the company said: "Join Peter, Wendy, Tinkerbell and the Lost Boys on this incredible adventure as they take on the mischievous Captain Hook."

"With some fantastic songs and a talented cast this will be one family show you won't want to miss."

The exciting and colourful show will be on stage at Hafren Newtown.

A show takes place this evening (Thursday) at 7.30pm. There will also be a performance of the show tomorrow at 7.30pm at Hafren.

And on Saturday there are two opportunities to enjoy the show.

A matinee will take place at 2.30pm and the evening show takes place at 7.30pm.

Tickets cost £12.50, available from 01686 614555.



* A CRAFT fair will be held at the Willow Gallery in Oswestry on Saturday.

To book a table, at £35 for the day, contact the gallery on (01691) 657575.

The day will run from 10am to 5pm, with set-up time from 8am, and entry will be free for the public.

* AS part of the 90th birthday celebrations taking place this year, Derven College at Gobowen is hosting a 1920s Charity Ball at the college grounds on May 13.

The evening promises to be a night of vintage magic hosted by the Electro-Swing Ball.

Doors open at 7pm and party goers will be welcomed by the Glitter Kittens entertaining on stilts during welcome drinks and canapés.

April 29

**Casualty**

8.10pm

Part two of two. Sam's rash decision to man the ED himself during the staff strike comes back to haunt him when Roy Ellison's wife and son turn up at the hospital, and discover what has happened to him. The Ellisons quickly prove that violent behaviour runs in the family.

**Live Snooker: The World Championship**

7pm

Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the fourth and final session of the second semi-final at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where the first player to reach 17 frames will progress to the final. This match produced a thriller last year between Mark Selby and Marco Fu.

**Take Me Out**

6.45pm

Croydon bartender Tommy, prison officer Luke from Swansea, Essex-based salesman Bayo, and travel consultant Rixy from Leeds enters the 'love lift'. All four hope to impress 30 single women and win a date – but must first get the female participants to keep their lights on as a sign of approval.

**Walking Through Time**

8pm

Paleobiologist Dr Tori Herridge follows up her documentary on the mega-flood that separated Britain from continental Europe with three more investigations, all of which explore some of the prehistoric forces that shaped the national landscape. She begins by visiting north-west Scotland.

**NCIS**

8pm

An American couple are attacked in Iraq, in the very same spot a group of US Special Ops snipers were ambushed six months earlier. Determined to get to the bottom of the case, Gibbs is forced to speak to Aaron Davis, the only survivor of the first assault.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.**
- 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live.** Michel Roux Jr takes on hosting duties this week, as singer and Texas frontwoman Sharleen Spiteri samples dishes prepared in the studio by Cyrus Todiwala and Nick Denevill-Smith.
- 11.30 Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites.** The cook takes inspiration from the herb garden. (R)
- 12.00 Football Focus.** Dan Walker and guests look ahead to the weekend's football, which includes Everton v Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur v Arsenal in the Premier League.
- 1.00 BBC News: Weather.**
- 1.15 Live Snooker: The World Championship.** Hazel Irvine presents from the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where the opening semi-final is set to come to a conclusion, with the players needing to reach 17 frames to progress.
- 4.30 Final Score.** Jason Mohammad presents a round-up of the classified results and this afternoon's news from the Premier League, EFL and Scotland.
- 5.30 Who Dares Wins.** Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject.
- 6.10 BBC News.**
- 6.20 Midlands Today: Weather.**
- 6.30 Pointless Celebrities.** Jimmy Osmond, Kym Mazelle, Jedward, Nancy Lam, Sam Simmons, Ossie Ardiles and Guillen Balague compete in an internationally themed edition of the unorthodox quiz show.
- 7.20 Doctor Who.** Doctor and Bill visit Regency London to attend the last of the great frost fairs, but get wrapped up in a mystery when a sinister force stirs beneath the ice of the frozen Thames.
- 8.10 Casualty.** Part two of two. Roy Ellison's relatives cause chaos in the ED, and Lily is rushed into the ward after being found unconscious in the car park.
- 9.00 BBC News: Weather.**
- 9.20 All Round to Mrs Brown's.** West End star Michael Ball and TV actress Sunetra Sarker join Agnes in her sitting room, as the Brown family matriarch's Saturday night chat show concludes. Last in the series; **National Lottery Update.**
- 10.20 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Southampton v Hull City at St Mary's Stadium and Crystal Palace v Burnley at Selhurst Park.
- 11.25 Murder in Successville.** Guest rookie Martin Kemp goes back in time to solve the very first murder in Victorian Successville, that of lady-of-the-night Rita Ora. Comedy, starring Tom Davis.
- 11.55 FILM: Wild Hogs (2007).** Four middle-aged suburban friends try to rev up their lives on a cross-country motorbike trip. Comedy adventure, with John Travolta and William H Macy.
- 1.30 Weather for the Week Ahead.**
- 1.35 BBC News.**

BBC2

- 6.25 FILM: On Moonlight Bay (1951).** A tomboy finds unexpected romance with the college student next door – much to her family's dismay. Musical comedy set during the First World War, with Doris Day and Gordon MacRae.
- 8.00 FILM: That's Entertainment Part Two (1976).** Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly introduce a compilation of MGM musical and comedy highlights, featuring Judy Garland, Laurel and Hardy and the Marx Brothers.
- 10.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship.** Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the third and penultimate session of the second semi-final at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where eight frames are scheduled to take place.
- 12.00 Raymond Blanc: How to Cook Well.** The chef gives a masterclass in baking. (R)
- 12.30 Hairy Bikers' Best of British.** How hard times forced cooks to make the most of what they had. (R)
- 1.15 60s Icons: Talking Pictures.** Revisiting interviews with some of Britain's brightest stars of the 1960s.
- 1.45 FILM: The Ipcress File (1965).** A spy investigating the kidnap and brainwashing of Britain's leading scientists uncovers evidence of high-powered double-dealing. Thriller, with Michael Caine and Gordon Jackson.
- 3.30 Natural World.** The story of a mother moose bringing up her calf in the Canadian Rockies. (R)
- 4.30 Live Snooker: The World Championship.** The opening semi-final is set to reach a conclusion.
- 5.30 The Crucible: 40 Golden Snooker Years.** Steve Davis celebrates 40 years of the world snooker championship. (R)
- 6.30 Dad's Army.** Wilson is put in charge of the platoon when HQ discover that Mainwaring is not a commissioned officer and must join the ranks as a private. (R)
- 7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship.** Hazel Irvine presents the concluding session of the second semi-final at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where the first player to reach 17 frames will progress to the final.
- 9.30 FILM: Calvary (2014).** Premiere. A priest tries to put his community's affairs in order as he waits for a meeting with a man who has vowed to kill him. Drama, starring Brendan Gleeson, Chris O'Dowd.
- 11.05 Versailles.** The King's bad example is seen as typical of the nobility's immorality as his adultery with Madame de Montespan not only troubles his Queen but also zealous young Father Pascal; (R) **Inside Versailles.** As part of a closer look at the drama series, Kate Williams and Greg Jenner explore Louis XIV's troubled relationship with religion. (R)
- 12.05 FILM: Rabbit-Proof Fence (2002).** Fact-based drama, with Everlyn Sampi, Tianna Sansbury and Kenneth Branagh.
- This Is BBC2.** Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC2.

ITV

- 6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street 6.10** Bottom Knocker Street **6.25** Sooty **6.35** Signed Stories: Share a Story **6.40** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures **7.00** Oddbods **7.05** Marvel Avengers Assemble **7.30** Thunderbirds Are Go **7.55** NinjaGo: Masters of Spinjitzu **ITV News.** **8.30** Weekend. With guests Nick Knowles, Jack Savoretti and Tom Crane. **9.25** The Home Game. Homeowners embark on major renovation projects. (R)
- 10.20** James Martin's French Adventure. The chef explores the Dordogne. (R)
- 11.20** Tipping Point. Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard, in which contestants answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine in the hope of winning up to £10,000. (R)
- 12.25** ITV News and Weather; Weather.
- 12.30** Bigheads. Jason Manford hosts the comedy game show. (R)
- 1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Sandown. Ed Chamberlin presents coverage of six races from two meetings. From Sandown Park at 1.50, 2.20 and 2.55 and 3.30, and from Haydock Park at 2.05 and 2.40.
- 4.00** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs. A Great Dane puppy needs an operation to fix its abnormal leg growth. (R)
- 4.30** Britain's Got More Talent. Stephen Mulhern hosts the companion show to the talent competition.
- 5.30** Catchphrase. Guessing game, hosted by Stephen Mulhern. (R)
- 6.15** ITV News Central; Weather.
- 6.25** ITV News and Weather.
- 6.45** Take Me Out. Would-be Romeos from Croydon, Swansea, Essex and Leeds try to win dates by winning the approval of a pool of 30 single women. Paddy McGuinness presents.
- 8.00** Britain's Got Talent. The auditions reach their third week, as more would-be stars demonstrate their unique talents to judges Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden, David Walliams and Alesha Dixon.
- 9.20** Through the Keyhole. Keith Lemon visits mystery celebrity homes and challenges this week's panel – Kimberley Walsh, Jonathan Ross and Andi Peters – to guess the identities of the famous owners. (R)
- 10.15** ITV News and Weather; Weather.
- 10.35** FILM: Yes Man (2008). A downtrodden man has his life transformed when he decides to say yes to every opportunity. Comedy based on the book by Danny Wallace, starring Jim Carrey and Zooey Deschanel.
- 12.25** Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
- 3.00** Who's Doing the Dishes? Cheryl Baker plays the mystery host to a dinner party for four strangers, who try to guess her identity with the aim of winning a cash prize. Hosted by Brian McFadden. (R)
- 3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

Channel 4

- 6.05 Motor Sport: Mini Challenge.** Action from round one at Oulton Park.
- 6.35 Volkswagen Racing Cup.** Action from the opening round of the series at Oulton Park.
- 7.00 The King of Queens.** Doug goes to confession. (R)
- 7.25 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Ally researches the family tree. (R)
- 7.50 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Marie's meatballs leave Debra in a stew. (R)
- 8.20 Frasier.** The psychiatrist realises his true feelings for Kate. (R)
- 8.50 Frasier.** The psychiatrist announces on air he is looking for companionship. (R)
- 9.25 Frasier.** Joe spends the night with Daphne. (R)
- 9.55 Formula 1 Russian Grand Prix Practice 3 Live.** Coverage from the fourth round of the season.
- 11.25 F1 Meets Daniel Ricciardo.** An interview with the Red Bull driver.
- 11.55 Formula 1 Russian Grand Prix Qualifying Live.** Coverage from the fourth round of the season at Sochi Autodrom (Start-time 1.00pm).
- 2.30 The Auctioneers.** Four rivals compete for the chance to take "unsellable" items to auction.
- 3.35 A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun.** Jonnie Irwin searches Lot-et-Garonne in the south west of France. (R)
- 4.35 Big House, Little House.** New series. Property renovation show, with Aidan Keane.
- 5.35 Location, Location, Location.** Two couples search Hampshire, Wiltshire and Surrey for new homes. (R)
- 6.30 Channel 4 News.**
- 7.00 The Restoration Man.** George Clarke catches up with a London couple who set themselves the challenge of transforming a derelict airfield control tower in Scotland into a family home.
- 8.00 Walking Through Time.** Dr Tori Herridge investigates the ancient forces that shaped the British landscape, beginning with the asteroid that landed in north-west Scotland 1.2 billion years ago. (R)
- 9.00 FILM: Carol (2015).** Premiere. Two women from different backgrounds fall in love in 1950s New York, but have to keep their relationship a secret. Romantic drama, starring Cate Blanchett and Rooney Mara.
- 11.20 FILM: Zombieland (2009).** A small group of survivors goes in search of a safe haven in an America overrun by ravenous zombies. Comedy horror, starring Woody Harrelson, Jesse Eisenberg and Emma Stone.
- 1.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA.** Part two of two. The chef continues his quest to transform the fortunes of the Burger Kitchen. (R)
- 1.50 Hollyoaks.** Omnibus. Kathy and Zoe return for Amy's funeral but there is still bad blood between them, while Hunter saves the day for Peri. (R)
- 3.55 Shipping Wars UK.** Raymond and Grant try to boost their week's profit. (R)
- 4.20 Fifteen to One.** General knowledge quiz, hosted by Sandi Toksvig. (R)
- 5.15 Location, Location, Location.** (R)

Channel 5

- 6.00 Milkshake! Pip Ahoy!** **6.10** Milkshake! Monkey **6.15** Milkshake! Bop Box **6.20** The Mr Men Show **6.30** Peppa Pig **6.35** Peppa Pig **6.40** Wissper **6.50** Paw Patrol **7.00** Bob the Builder **7.15** Fireman Sam **7.25** Olly the Little White Van **7.30** Olly the Little White Van **7.35** Paw Patrol **7.50** Blaze and the Monster Machines **8.15** Noddy: Toyland Detective **8.30** Wissper **8.40** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom **8.55** Shimmy and Shine **9.20** Little Princess **9.35** Peppa Pig **9.40** Peppa Pig **9.45** Peppa Pig **10.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
- 10.15 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** (R)
- 10.50 Access.**
- 10.55 Criminals: Caught on Camera.** (R)
- 11.20 The Gadget Show.** Jon tests a new type of blu-ray that offers 4K quality. (R)
- 12.15 On Benefits: Costa del Dole.** A 50-year-old who cannot find work after moving to Jaywick in Essex. (R)
- 2.15 On Benefits: Living the High Life.** Catching up with people featured in earlier editions. (R)
- 3.15 On Benefits: Single & Skint.** The lives of welfare recipients who are keen to find love as well as gainful employment. (R)
- 4.15 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** Residential feuds that turned violent. (R)
- 5.10 Can't Pay Special: Secrets and Lies.** A tearful woman accuses her landlord of fleecing her for extra rent. (R)
- 6.10 7.05 NCIS: Los Angeles.** The team investigates the death of a Navy intelligence officer, and the choice of murder weapon leads the agents to believe he was killed by a colleague. (R)
- 8.00 NCIS.** The team must ask a traumatised serviceman to recall the events of an ambush he survived while serving in Iraq, after a American couple are attacked in the very same spot.
- 8.55 9.00 News Weekend.** Action from the penultimate round of regular-season fixtures in the Championship, including Brighton & Albion v Bristol City and Leeds United v Norwich City.
- 10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush.** George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the weekend's games in League Two, including Hartlepool United v Barnet and Carlisle United v Newport County.
- 10.15 FILM: Tower Block (2012).** The last remaining residents of a soon-to-be demolished tower block prepare to leave, only to find all the ways out of the building have been cut off and a mysterious sniper is watching their every move, waiting to gun them down. They find that not only is the building booby-trapped with deadly devices, but also that some of their number are not as innocent as they seem. Thriller, starring Sheridan Smith.
- 12.00 SuperCasino.**
- 3.10 5.15 FILM: The Long Ships (1963).** House Doctor. (R)

April 30


Antiques Roadshow
8pm

Fiona Bruce and the team head for the gardens of Trellissick, near Truro in Cornwall. Objects under examination include a bust of Winston Churchill found at the bottom of a lake and a group of medals owned by a proud grandson. A lifebelt tells the graphic story of a shipwreck off the Lizard peninsula.


Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby
6pm

Giles Coren and Monica Galetti work at Fogo Island Inn, which is sited on a rocky outpost off the northeast coast of the island of Newfoundland in Canada and pays homage to the settlers who arrived from Ireland and Devon to fish for cod.


Bigheads
7pm

Jason Manford hosts the comedy game show in which members of the public compete in a series of bizarre physical challenges while wearing giant model heads of David Beckham, Ed Sheeran, Taylor Swift, Prince Charles and Queen Victoria. They must dodge past giant bouncers to get into a nightclub.


George Clarke's Old House, New Home
6.05pm

George visits a Grade-II listed worker's cottage in Hampshire, as his mission to future-proof historic houses continues. Due to restrictions on planning permissions, the property has become somewhat disorganised, and is in need of a careful makeover.


Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves
6pm

An English nobleman returns home from the crusades to find his father has been murdered and the local people are repressed by the Sheriff of Nottingham. Branded an outlaw, he recruits a group of bandits to fight for justice and protect the downtrodden. Action adventure, starring Kevin Costner.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.**
- 7.50 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Southampton v Hull City at St Mary's Stadium and Crystal Palace v Burnley at Selhurst Park. (R)
- 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show.**
- 10.00 The Big Questions.** Nicky Campbell presents moral and religious discussions on topical issues from Manor CE Academy, York.
- 11.00 Sunday Politics West Midlands.** The week's events at Westminster, presented by Andrew Neil. Including a regional round-up.
- 12.15 Bargain Hunt.** From Wetherby racecourse, West Yorkshire. (R)
- 1.00 BBC News; Weather.**
- 1.15 Homes Under the Hammer.** A basement flat in London's Peckham, and terraced houses in Caddington near Manchester and Maerdy in Wales are all sold under the hammer. (R)
- 2.15 Wanted Down Under.** The Rutland family tries to decide whether to move to Australia, with Julie hoping that a trial week in Perth will be the key to convincing husband Dan to take the plunge. (R)
- 3.15 Flog It!** David Fletcher and Anita Manning value collectibles at Alnwick Castle in Northumberland, while Paul Martin explores the building's State Rooms. (R)
- 4.05 Points of View.** Jeremy Vine presents a selection of viewers' comments.
- 4.20 Escape to the Country.** A couple look for their first marital home in the rural Lake District. (R)
- 5.05 Songs of Praise.** Josie D'Arby pays tribute to the Cornish Air Ambulance Service.
- 5.40 Pointless Celebrities.** The stars of the 1970s compete in the general knowledge quiz. (R)
- 6.30 BBC News.**
- 6.50 Midlands Today; Weather.**
- 7.00 Countryfile.** Ellie Harrison visits a hedgehog rehab centre in Warwickshire, and Steve Brown meets local volunteers trying to preserve wildlife along the river Tame and its floodplain.
- 8.00 Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce presents from Trellissick, near Truro in Cornwall, where objects under examination include a bust of Winston Churchill found at the bottom of a lake.
- 9.00 Line of Duty.** Nick is about to be charged with Tim Ifield's murder, but the AC-12 team is running out of time to prove that Roz was involved in the crime. Last in the series.
- 10.00 BBC News.**
- 10.20 Midlands Today; Weather.**
- 10.30 Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, including Tottenham Hotspur v Arsenal, Everton v Chelsea and Manchester United v Swansea City.
- 11.50 The Women's Football Show.** Eilidh Barbour presents action.
- 12.25 Weather for the Week Ahead.**
- 12.30 BBC News.**

BBC2

- 6.30 A to Z of TV Gardening.** Carol Kirkwood continues her alphabetical journey through the world of horticulture by looking at subjects beginning with the letter K. (R)
- 7.15 Around the World in 80 Gardens.** Monty Don tours the botanical hot spots of northern Europe, from the floral splendour of Britain's Sissinghurst Castle to the plant life thriving 200 miles above the Arctic Circle. (R)
- 8.15 The Beechgrove Garden.** Jim McColl plants a selection of swedes and neeps, Chris Beardshaw creates a rose garden and Carol Baxter shows how to plant a vegetable garden on a budget.
- 8.50 Countryfile.** Reports on the latest rural developments. (R)
- 9.45 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** Matt Tebbutt presents highlights of the series, recalling his favourite moments from previous years in the kitchen.
- 11.15 Nigel Slater: Eating Together.** Nigel visits three home cooks to learn about variations on custard. (R)
- 11.45 Simply Nigella.** Recipes include a salmon, avocado, watercress and pumpkin seed salad. (R)
- 12.15 MOTD2 Extra.** Mark Chapman presents football discussion with a line-up of guests, focusing on the headlines from yesterday's matches and news ahead of today's fixtures.
- 1.00 Athletics: World Relay Championship Highlights.** Action from the two-day event at the Thomas Robinson Stadium in Nassau, Bahamas, which featured men's and women's 4 x 100m, 4 x 200m, 4 x 400m, 4 x 800m and distance medley races.
- 2.00 Liv Snooker: The World Championship.** Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the opening session of the final at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where the first eight frames of the match are scheduled to take place.
- 6.00 Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby.** Giles Coren and Monica Galetti work at Fogo Island Inn, which is sited off the coast of Newfoundland in Canada and pays homage to the settlers who arrived from Ireland and Devon. (R)
- 7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship.** Hazel Irvine presents all the action from the second session of the final at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre, where a further nine frames are scheduled to take place.
- 11.00 FILM: Drive (2011).** A stuntman-turned-getaway driver tries to protect a criminal's family, only to get drawn into a conflict with the Mafia. Crime drama, starring Ryan Gosling and Carey Mulligan.
- 12.35 Sign Zone: Question Time.** Topical debate from Oxford, chaired by David Dimbleby. (R)
- 1.35 Sign Zone: Holby City.** After uncovering a revelation from Matteo's past, he and Jac clash over a patient, while Sacha is not himself, and Ric cracks the whip on the Acute Assessment Unit floor. (R)
- 2.30 This Is BBC2.** Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC2.

ITV

- 6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street 6.10** Bottom Knocker Street 6.25 Sooty 6.35 Signed Stories: Share a Story 6.40 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 6.50 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 7.00 Oddbods 7.05 Marvel Avengers Assemble 7.30 Thunderbirds Are Go 7.55 NinjaGo: Masters of Spinjitzu
- 8.25 ITV News.**
- 8.30 Weekend.** With Anthony Head, Gloria Hunniford and Fiona Phillips.
- 9.25 Countrywise: Guide to Britain.** Ben Fogle helps with the renovation work at Castle Howard in North Yorkshire. Last in the series. (R)
- 10.00 Peston on Sunday.** Political magazine.
- 11.00 Judge Rinder.** Real-life cases in a studio courtroom. (R)
- 12.00 ITV News and Weather;** Weather.
- 12.05 Fishing Impossible.** The lads hunt for fish from the legendary wrecks of Scapa Flow. (R)
- 12.35 Who's Doing the Dishes?** With former EastEnders actor Ricky Groves. (R)
- 1.35 Tipping Point.** Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard. (R)
- 2.40 Britain's Got Talent.** The auditions reach their third week. (R)
- 4.00 FILM: On Her Majesty's Secret Service (1969).** James Bond adventure, starring George Lazenby.
- 6.35 ITV News Central;** Weather.
- 6.45 ITV News and Weather.**
- 7.00 Bigheads.** Contestants undertake physical challenges while wearing giant model heads of David Beckham, Ed Sheeran, Taylor Swift, Prince Charles and Queen Victoria. With Jason Manford.
- 8.00 The Durrells.** Larry's latest novel is being published – but nobody seems to be impressed. Leslie has an idea for a new business venture involving making liquor out of kumquats.
- 9.00 Grantham.** The villagers play a cricket match against nearby Whittlebury, but after an incident involving contaminated beer, one batsman is found poisoned. Guest starring Peter Davison.
- 10.00 ITV News and Weather;** Weather.
- 10.20 Lethal Weapon.** The festive holiday season weighs heavily on Riggs, who flashes back to past Christmases with his late wife Miranda. Clayne Crawford stars. (R)
- 11.20 Premiership Rugby Union.** Highlights of the latest top-flight fixtures, which included Harlequins v Wasps, Bath v Gloucester and Exeter Chiefs v Northampton Saints.
- 12.15 Peston on Sunday.** Political magazine. (R)
- 1.10 Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
- 3.00 Motorsport UK.** Action from Brands Hatch.
- 3.50 The Cube.** A sales assistant and a retired theatre worker take part. (R)
- 4.40 ITV Nightscreen.** Text-based information service.
- 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R)

Channel 4

- 6.10 The King of Queens.** Carrie wins four basketball season tickets. (R)
- 6.35 The King of Queens.** Carrie cooks for Deacon. (R)
- 7.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Ray looks after the family finances. (R)
- 7.25 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Ray foils a robbery. (R)
- 7.55 Frasier.** Niles takes Daphne to a society ball. (R)
- 8.25 Frasier.** Niles visits Seattle. (R)
- 9.00 Sunday Brunch.** With Anne-Marie, Daniel Mays and Lizzie Armitstead.
- 12.00 Formula 1 Russian Grand Prix Live Build-Up.** Previewing the fourth round of the season.
- 12.35 Formula 1 Russian Grand Prix Live.** Coverage of the fourth round of the season (Start-time 1.00pm).
- 3.10 Formula 1 Russian Grand Prix Live Reaction.** A review of the fourth round of the season.
- 4.30 World's Most Expensive Cars.** New series. Acquiring rare cars for auction house RM Sotheby's.
- 5.35 Channel 4 News.**
- 6.05 George Clarke's Old House, New Home.** George aims to help the owners of a Grade-II listed worker's cottage in Hampshire future-proof their home, visiting a Victorian stable and an East Sussex farmhouse for inspiration. (R)
- 7.00 Escape to Costa Rica.** New series. Science writer Gail Vince explores the most sustainable nation in the world, meeting the president and scientists helping to preserve the island's forests and wildlife.
- 8.00 FILM: Transformers: Dark of the Moon (2011).** The autobots fight to protect Earth when a devastating weapon from their own world is recovered. Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Shia LaBeouf and Rosie Huntington-Whiteley.
- 11.00 Gogglebox.** Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)
- 12.05 FILM: Mud (2012).** Two boys find a fugitive hiding out on an island on the Mississippi and help reunite him with his lost love. Drama, starring Matthew McConaughey and Reese Witherspoon.
- 2.25 KOTV Boxing Weekly.** Action from around the world.
- 2.50 Gillette World Sport.** Global sports action.
- 3.15 Shipping Wars UK.** Phil transports a supersize polystyrene padlock. (R)
- 3.40 Building the Dream.** Charlie Luxton meets Tasmin and Andy Jarrett, who hope to build a modern family home in the middle of a Kent conservation area, but they prove reluctant to take on any new ideas. Previously seen on More4.
- 4.35 Location, Location, Location.** Kirstie Allsopp meets a couple who want to downsize and move into Shrewsbury town centre, while in Wolverhampton, Phil Spencer helps two musicians buy their first home together. (R)
- 5.30 Four in a Bed.** The contest begins at the Black Lion in Halland, East Sussex, where host Nigel Fright gets off to a shaky start. (R)

Channel 5

- 6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig 6.05 Peppa Pig**
- 6.10 Milkshake! Monkey 6.15 Paw Patrol 6.30 Bob the Builder 6.40 Fireman Sam 6.50 Olly the Little White Van 7.00 Olly the Little White Van 7.10 Paw Patrol 7.25 Blaze and the Monster Machines 7.50 Noddy: Toyland Detective 8.10 Wisper**
- 8.20 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** The team faces Stockman-Fly's new insect minions. (R)
- 8.55 Football on 5: The Championship.** Action from the penultimate round of regular-season fixtures. (R)
- 9.45 Football on 5: Goal Rush.** Action from the latest fixtures. (R)
- 10.00 Great Birmingham 10k.** Ayo Akinwolere presents live coverage of the race, which sees fun-runners and elite athletes compete on a course taking in many of the second city's famous landmarks.
- 12.00 FILM: Getting Even with Dad (1994).** Family comedy, starring Macaulay Culkin and Ted Danson.
- 2.00 FILM: Three Men and a Little Lady (1990).** Comedy sequel, starring Tom Selleck.
- 4.00 FILM: Housesitter (1992).** Romantic comedy, starring Steve Martin and Goldie Hawn.
- 6.00 FILM: Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves (1991).** An outlawed English nobleman recruits a group of bandits to fight for justice and protect the downtrodden. Action adventure, with Kevin Costner, Alan Rickman and Morgan Freeman. Edited for daytime broadcast.
- 8.55 5 News Weekend.**
- 9.00 Greatest Ever 90s Movies.** Patsy Kensit presents a countdown of famous films from the last decade of the 20th century, including Titanic and Trainspotting. (R)
- 11.50 Football on 5: Goal Rush.** Action from the final fixtures of the regular season in League One, including Southend United v Bury, Bristol Rovers v Millwall and Gillingham v Fleetwood Town.
- 12.35 Criminals: Caught on Camera.** Journalist Nick Wallis joins police forces around the nation to discover how CCTV is used to help police catch reckless and dangerous drivers. (R)
- 1.00 SuperCasino.** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
- 3.10 FILM: Charade (1963).** A distraught widow is pursued by her husband's killers, who have linked her to a missing haul of money. Romantic thriller, starring Audrey Hepburn, Cary Grant and Walter Matthau.
- 5.00 House Doctor.** Ann Maurice shows homeowners near Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, how to inject a touch of character into their bland property to make it more appealing. (R)
- 5.25 Wildlife SOS.** The work of volunteers at a wildlife sanctuary. (R)
- 5.50 Roary the Racing Car.** Helie makes an emergency landing and has trouble getting airborne again. (R)

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deaths

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01743 24464

GILLAM

Richard Thomas
Of Meifod.

Passed away peacefully with his
wife Christine at his side, at the Severn Hospice,
Shrewsbury on April 16, 2017,
aged 74 years.

A much loved Father and
Grandfather and will be sadly
missed by all his Family and
Friends.

Funeral Service at Meifod
Parish Church on Thursday,
April 27, at 12 noon, followed
by Interment in the
Churchyard.

Family flowers only but
donations if desired to the
Severn Hospice, Shrewsbury.

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Telephone 01691 648243.

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Clive Pugh
Funeral Directors
St. Asaph Freegate
Shrewsbury
SY2 4HD

NORMAN

Ella Annette
(Netta)

Passed away peacefully on
April 8, 2017, aged 80 years.

A much loved Mum, Nan and
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The postholder will be responsible for the organisation and administration of all courses, workshops and symposiums held under the auspices of the Orthopaedic Institute which are held at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital. We are looking for someone who is enthusiastic, organised, and able to meet strict deadlines and who has the ability to multi task and maintain professionalism at all times without close supervision. Please apply by submitting your CV and covering letter by email to Alison.whitelaw@rjah.nhs.uk.

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Real attitude in Toyota's first SUV

By Graham Breeze

You might not have seen the new Toyota C-HR on the road yet but expect to be craning your neck for a better look when you do.

Because Toyota's first foray into the popular small SUV sector comes with real attitude thanks to rakish styling and raised suspension.

It's a brave move for Toyota, a company previously not known for attracting sales with eye-catching designs, but the Japanese firm has been teasing the public at motor shows across the world with concept ideas for a couple of years now.

The C-HR is exactly what it says on the tin – a Coupe High-Rider – designed to stand-out in the highly competitive crossover market. It's designed specifically to attract buyers who want individuality and seek to be the first to try new products.

A low roofline gives the Toyota the rakish appeal of a coupe and eye-catching creases and curves are a delight to see. And I'm a particular fan of rear door handles which are hidden in the C-Pillars. Great looking alloys and distinctive LED running lamps are the icing on the cake.

But it's not just looks that make this Toyota stand-out from the crowd, because C-HR introduces full hybrid powertrain to the segment for the first time and has already picked up awards from "Next Green Car."

At launch there's a choice of two engines, a 1.8 litre hybrid which debuted last year in the fourth generation Prius and a 1.2 litre version that comes in either two or four-wheel drive.

Toyota expects the hybrid to account for 75



The cabin has plenty of soft-touch plastic

per cent of sales but you won't go far wrong with the 1197cc Excel CVT with all-wheel drive which was on test. Not if you want a top speed of 111mph, 0-62mph in 11.4 seconds and combined fuel consumption figures of 44.8mpg. Figures for the hybrid are from 86g/km of CO₂ and 74.3mpg.

Bright dashboard inserts are another brave development from Toyota and the cabin really is a great place to be with plenty of quality soft-touch plastic and a quality feel. But while it's a good place for front seat occupants, big C-pillars do give a claustrophobic feel for those in the back.

There's been no scrimping on kit. The test car came with a multi-information display, electric parking brake, power windows, park assist, front and rear parking sensors, smart entry and push-button start, rain-sensing wipers and dusk-sensing headlights.

The Toyota Touch-To-Go system is fitted, including an 8inch touchscreen, satellite



A low roofline gives the Toyota the rakish appeal of a coupe with eye-catching creases and curves

navigation, on-line connectivity, Bluetooth, and rear-view camera.

There's dual-zone air conditioning, remote central locking, an alarm, part-leather upholstery, 60-40 split folding seats, heated front seats, and a leather steering wheel and gear knob.

And if safety is high on your list of demands you won't go far wrong with the C-HR. All models are fitted with Toyota Safety Sense, a

pre-collision system complete with wave radar to detect pedestrians as well as vehicles on the road ahead.

There's all-round airbags, ABS with EBD and brake assist, traction control, vehicle stability control, Hill start, tyre pressure warning, rear cross traffic alert and blind spot monitoring.

All versions come with a choice of Sport, Normal and Eco which alter the weight of the steering and throttle response to suit

individual driving needs and road conditions.

You would have to part with £26,495 for the Excel 1.2 CVT AWD on test and another £2,000 to add metallic paint and the premium pack which is on track with main rivals such as Nissan Qashqai and SEAT Ateca.

Only time will tell if Toyota's bold attempt to challenge this seriously competitive small SUV sector will be a success – but you can't really fault this brave offering.

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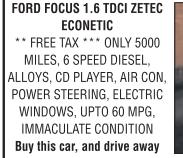
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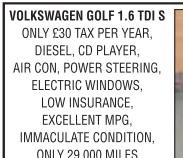
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Snow drift: taking it ice and easy with superstars

By Rebecca Chaplin

"It's all about looking at where you need to go next and steering before you reach that point," explained Aleksi Halen as we skidded across the ice.

"Keep your movements smooth and counteract where the car is turning to keep it going in the direction you need."

Halen is a racer in the Legends series, but today he's showing me how to manoeuvre round a track etched into a frozen lake in northern Finland.

He's got the natural mix of calmness and confidence you'd expect of a Finnish racing driver who's been traversing tracks such as this since the age of six. "If we stop racing, then we stop going where we need to go," he said as the back end of the car I'm steering overtakes the rear and he forces the steering wheel in the opposite direction to realign us on the track.

Sliding

Driving on ice is something you'd expect to be unnerving, but in our Seat Leon Cupra with full traction control on, you'd barely notice the difference. As long as you're driving carefully, that is.

Push the car a little too far and, even equipped with snow tyres, you'll find yourself sliding, until the electronic stability control kicks in and narrowly saves you crashing into a snow drift.

Turn that off and it's a very different story. The car effectively becomes a giant ice skate, with traction in a straight line, but little grip as soon as you attempt to turn.

Seat has brought us to northern Finland where the snow is thick and the temperature is below zero to demonstrate what its 4Drive four-wheel-drive system can do in extreme weather – with the aim that it'll show us how this clever tech can benefit drivers in the far less extreme UK.

We'd try what are more conventional methods in these parts, from huskies to snowmobiles, which have been carefully

honed to work in these conditions. However, Seat's SUVs and sporty hatchbacks are not what you would usually associate with snow, let alone ice.

Our day started in a far more civilised manner, testing out the car maker's latest addition to its range, the Ateca SUV, across the snowy roads of Kuusamo. These family-sized cars transported us to our ice lake adventure with poise and grace.

Halen sat in the back directing me to the Juha Kankunen Driving Academy where he works.

We travelled up steep inclines through forests and bounded across the snow with surprising ease as we took in the bleak, but beautiful snowy vistas.

Kankunen will be a name you'll recognise if you follow rallying. This Flying Finn, for those not in the know, has won the World Rally Championship four times.

So, what else would you do as one of the most famous rallying drivers in the world, but buy a frozen lake in your home country to turn into your ideal race track?

And what could possibly make a better location for learning how to tackle these conditions?

Halen takes me for one lap, which seems only suitable for trained racing drivers, before pulling over and telling me to get in the driving seat. With one foot sliding underneath me the idea that I'll be driving on this seems daunting.

We try first with all of the electronic elements of the car allowed to do what they want and keep me out of the snow. He's confident I can cope, or at least that there's enough snow to cushion me and the Leon from any mistakes, and turns off the ESP.

It's unnatural at first to counter-steer away from the way you want to go, but once you get into a rhythm, it makes sense. It also helps that Halen is shouting at me to turn, brake and accelerate, which I follow diligently.

To my surprise, Halen sounds vaguely impressed with what I'm doing as I turn the



It seems unnatural at first to counter-steer away from the way you want to go on ice and snow

car into the corner on the approach before straightening it as we hit the apex to slide through the remainder and power to the next turn. "Power on to move the car to the inside and lift off to keep to the inside," is his next piece of advice as we slide around a hairpin bend.

Sure enough, by adding some power, the car carries on sideways, and as I ease off, we slow to keep tight to the apex.

I soon learnt what can happen if you don't follow instructions carefully, as one false move placed me nose-first in the snow. We

weren't out of the rally though, Halen told me, as we reversed off the drift.

To show me how it is really done, I get a trip round the circuit with World Touring Car Champion driver Jordi Gené and, the man himself, Juha Kankunen. Modest Gené takes me round first, explaining that he'll be nowhere near as smooth as the Finn.

Fearlessly, he speeds around the track, explaining that he's going for fun skids rather than the fastest time – but he could have fooled me.

Next, I get a chance to meet Kankunen,

the calmest man I've ever encountered. He acts as if he is cruising around the track, with the smallest inputs made to the steering wheel, but attacks the corners with speed. Unsurprisingly, the few laps I get with him are over extremely quickly.

I left the car feeling that I needed to move to Finland and rekindle my dream of a career as a racing driver. Although my time on the snow was short, it certainly showed me what a challenge ice driving is and gave me some insight into how to handle a car should UK roads turn arctic.



UK deliveries are expected in late summer

XC60 is brimful of safety technology

Priced from £37,205, the XC60 is available to order now, with UK deliveries expected to start in late summer.

A choice of three engines – two diesel units and one petrol – are available, though a petrol-electric plug-in hybrid version will arrive later on in the year.

Each car is fitted with an eight-speed automatic gearbox and four-wheel drive as standard, with base D4 cars returning a claimed fuel consumption of 55.4mpg.

Even more powerful D5 versions should provide an economic drive, with Volvo claiming consumption figures of 51.4mpg.

The most powerful petrol T5, producing 250bhp, should return 39.2mpg and emit 164g/km CO₂. The D4 and D5 models emit 133g/km and 144g/km CO₂ respectively.

Jon Wakefield, managing director of Volvo Car UK, said: "We're incredibly excited about the brand-new XC60. Not only does it bring all the style and advanced technology from our larger cars to our best-selling SUV, it is the latest step in Volvo's transformation."

There are three trim levels to choose from, in the form of Momentum, R-Design and Inscription.

Even base-spec cars receive LED headlights as standard, as well as two-zone climate control and 18-inch alloy wheels.

Sporty R-Design cars receive 19-inch alloy wheels and sport suspension, alongside a gloss black front grille. Pilot Assist – Volvo's semi-autonomous drive technology – is available as an optional extra on the XC60.

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Temesters	3	2	0	1	4	
Bromfield	3	2	0	1	4	
Cleobury	3	1	0	2	2	
Stokesay	3	1	0	2	2	
Corve	3	1	0	2	2	
Linney	3	1	0	2	2	
Bylet	3	0	0	3	3	
Mortimer	3	0	0	3	2	

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Adderley B	24	14	4	2	428	
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Newport C	24	5	3	2	321	

Division 2

	P	W	L	D	Ag	P
AWC	19	16	4	3	464	
Nantwich Barony A	24	13	5	6	428	
Press	24	15	4	3	433	
Whitmore	24	14	4	2	428	
Cholmondeley A	24	8	3	3	375	
Ellesmere C	16	12	3	17	317	
Chester Rd B	16	9	2	5	307	
Tilstock A	16	4	2	4	240	

Division 3

	P	W	L	D	Ag	P
Con Club	24	20	4	0	470	
Hadnall B	24	18	4	0	470	
Tilstock B	24	17	5	2	428	
District B	24	17	4	3	420	
Chester C	24	15	4	2	426	
P/brockhurst B	24	14	4	2	422	
Malpas B C	24	11	3	3	398	
Adderley A	24	9	3	6	366	
Ellesmere D	24	7	3	7	376	
Nantwich Barony B	24	8	3	6	368	
Cholmondeley B	24	8	3	6	366	
Joules Mkt Drayton	24	5	3	5	355	
Nantwich Pk Rd A	24	6	3	4	349	

Division 4

	P	W	L	D	Ag	P
Cynwyd A	2	2	0	0	7	14
Rubion A	1	1	0	0	29	10
Flexys A	2	0	0	2	24	10
Johnstone B	2	0	0	1	18	10
Whittington A	2	0	0	1	18	10
Corwen A	2	0	0	2	37	2

Division 2

	P	W	L	D	Ag	P
Cynwyd A	2	2	0	0	7	14
Rubion A	2	1	1	0	40	17
Flexys A	2	1	1	0	40	17
Johnstone B	2	1	1	0	31	11
Whittington B	2	1	1	0	30	11
Llanrhedr A	2	1	1	0	9	10
Giffins B	2	1	1	0	1	10
Ellerbeck A	2	1	1	0	30	11
Old Croftie A	2	1	1	0	37	9
Church B	2	1	1	0	35	9
Plas Kynaston A	2	0	2	0	37	6

Division 3

	P	W	L	D	Ag	P
Cefnog Valley C	2	2	0	0	0+9	17
Johnstown D	2	2	0	0	+10	17
Giffins C	2	1	1	0	+68	14
Llangollen B	2	1	1	0	+36	12
Bersham	2	1	1	0	+29	12
Black Lion	2	1	1	0	-11	9
Fox	2	1	1	0	-4	9
Church C	2	1	1	0	-46	9
Ellesmere B	2	1	1	0	-46	9
Johnstown C	2	0	2	0	-18	7
Chirk AAA B	2	1	1	0	-80	7
Cefnog Valley B	2	0	2	0	-12	3

Division 4

	P	W	L	D	Ag	P
Pentre Broughton	2	2	0	0	+109	17
Spruce A	2	2	0	0	+109	17
Cynwyd A	2	2	0	0	+84	9
Whittington A	2	2	0	0	+18	9
Corwen B	2	0	0	2	-9	6

Division 5

	P	W	L	D	Ag	P
Cynwyd C	2	2	0	0	+11	14
Rubion B	2	2	0	0	+55	15
Overton B	2	2	0	0	+38	14
Cynwyd B	2	1	1	0	+48	14
Llanymynech C	2	1	1	0	+17	12
Giffins C	2	1	1	0	+17	12
Llangollen B	2	1	1	0	+36	12
Bersham	2	1	1	0	+29	12
Black Lion	2	1	1	0	-11	9
Fox	2	1	1	0	-4	9
Church C	2	1	1	0	-46	9
Ellesmere B	2	1	1	0	-46	9
Johnstown C	2	0	2	0	-18	7
Chirk AAA B	2	1	1	0	-84	7
Cefnog Valley B	2	0	2	0	-12	3

Midlands 1 West

	P	W	L	D	Ag	P
N'port, Salop	26	21	0	2	924,731	113
Bournville	26	22	0	4	945,583	110
Whittington	26	20	0	4	843,997	103
Llanymynech	25	19	1	0	1,111,373	97
Giffins Park	26	19	1	0	847,901	96
Corwen B	26	19	1	0	847,901	96
Stretton A	26	19	1	0	847,901	96
Whittington A	26	19	1	0	847,901	96
Corwen C	26	19	1	0	847,901	96
Whittington B	26	19	1	0	847,901	96
Llanrhedr A	26	19	1	0	847,901	96
Giffins C	26	19	1	0	847,901	96
Ellesmere B	26	19	1	0	847,901	96
Johnstown D	26	19	1	0	847,901	96
Whittington C	26	19	1	0	847,901	96
Giffins D	26	19	1	0	847,901	96
Ellesmere C	26	19	1	0	847,901	96
Johnstown E	26	19	1	0	847,901	96
Whittington D	26	19	1	0	847,901	96
Giffins E	26	19	1	0	847,901	96
Ellesmere F	26	19	1	0	847,901	96
Johnstown G	26	19	1	0	847,901	96
Whittington H	26	19	1	0	847,901	96
Giffins I	26	19	1	0	847,901	96
Ellesmere J	26	19	1	0	847,901	96
Johnstown K	26	19	1	0	847,901	96
Whittington L	26	19	1	0	847,901	96
Giffins M	26	19	1	0	847,901	96
Ellesmere N	26	19	1	0	847,901	96
Johnstown O	26	19	1	0	847,901	96
Whittington P	26	19	1	0	847,901	96
Giffins Q	26	19	1	0	847,901	96
Ellesmere R	26	19	1	0	847,901	96
Johnstown S	26	19	1	0	847,901	96
Whittington T	26	19	1	0	847,901	96
Giffins U	26	19	1	0	847,901	96
Ellesmere V	26	19	1	0	847,901	96
Johnstown W	26	19	1	0	847,901	96
Whittington X	26	19	1	0	847,901	96
Giffins Y	26	19	1	0	847,901	96
Ellesmere Z	26	19	1	0	847,901	96
Johnstown A	26	19	1	0	847,901	96
Whittington B	26	19	1	0</		

Red-hot Davies springs back with a victory

AFTER feeling under the weather for opening race of SB Sports Injuries Series, Bryn Davies made the most of the glorious weather to power to a fabulous win in round two.

The Hafren CC rider was the only competitor on a 21-minute mark from a field of 38 in the second SCCA Spring 10 held on the Waters Upton-Hodnet course.

Davies crossed the finish line in 21 minutes 35 seconds to close the gap on Series leader Victor Chetta to two points – as well as extending his lead at the top of the Veterans' Series thanks to a winning 4:50.

A delighted Davies said: "It was great to be back on form and to winning ways after shaking off a bug and the cobwebs from the previous week."

Round one winner Chetta took the runners-up spot in 22:09, 25 seconds, nine seconds ahead of SCCA private member Dan Watts.

With Davies taking the Veterans' victory, his closest competition came from Nova Raiders' Scott Harris who bagged his second runner-up spot in two weeks, recording a 4:01, to finish eight seconds ahead of Paramount's Gary Duncan.

In the Ladies' championship, Revolutions Racing's Pauline Hughes turned the tables on 15-year-old Hollie Owens, who had got the better of her in round one.

In the Junior Series, JHafren CC's Tyler Brennan made it two wins on the trot to take the maximum 40 points on offer. The 17-year-old put in a fabulous effort of 23:09 – for ninth spot overall, 15 seconds ahead of reigning Junior champion Sam Morris.

Title race looks all Rover after Waterloo win

WATERLOO Rovers moved a step closer to landing the Montgomeryshire League Honda division one crown with a dramatic 3-2 win at Llanfair Reserves. Rovers can clinch the title this week when they take on Caersws reserves.

Llanfair had led 2-1 with eight minutes to go, going ahead through a Callum Foulkes free kick after 25 minutes, but Waterloo equalised courtesy of Chris Hughes just after the break.

Toby Evans put United back in front and they looked to be holding on before a Jack Holley penalty and a fumble from Daves Roberts free-kick in the final minutes.

In the Mitsubishi division two, Trewern United look set for runners-up spot behind Bishop's Castle.

Hay St Marys Reserves secured the Watson Financial Mid Wales (South) League title with a 2-0 home success over Brecon Northcote.

Third-placed Talgarth Town signed off with a 3-1 win at Builth Wells reserves, Presteigne reserves and St Harmon battled out a goalless draw and Llandrindod Wells reserves drew 2-2 with Rhayader Town reserves.

Marksmen hit target at open competition

A TEAM from the Montgomeryshire & District Airgun league took part in the Swindon Open tournament. Two open shooting titles were brought back to Wales.

Paul Gwilliam won Group 'A' and the overall individual title, scoring 60 on each of his targets – a maximum score of 120. Joe Hilditch claimed the Junior title and also came sixth in the 'A' class.

Jane Thomas was the ladies' runner-up and fifth in the 'A' class; Adam Hilditch fourth in the 'A' class; Alan Baker, third in 'B' class; Tabitha Corbett, third in the juniors and fifth in the 'B' class and Luke Evans fourth in group and juniors.

Eagles clip wings of Medics side

OSWESTRY discovered their best form in rugby's South Lanes and Cheshire One after pulling off a 24-12 success against Manchester Medics in their last game of the season at Granville Park.

It's been a tough campaign for the Eagles who, languishing adrift at the foot of the table, now look destined for a swift return to the second division.

But they can take heart from recent displays. Confidence was given a welcome shot in the arm with their first win of the campaign earlier in the month, and they again showed their mettle by chalking up a second league success in their last outing with victory over Manchester Medics.

It ensured The Eagles avenged defeat at the hands of the Manchester club earlier in the campaign.

After a series of scrums, Oswestry's powerful play was rewarded with a pushover try from No8 James Booth, the conversion being missed.

The visitors steadied the ship, with their quick backs showing their pace, forcing Oswestry to defend in determined fashion to keep their line in tact with the boot of Louis Mackenzie and Luca Owen-Youens clearing the lines.

But the Eagles were under tremendous pressure with the Medics forcing penalties close to line, while they were disrupted by the loss of Nick Clay through injury to be replaced by Connor Lakin at scrum half.

The Manchester men took advantage of this change with a well worked move in the backs creating an overlap to cross in the corner to level matters

at 5-5 at half time. The Eagles responded with some fine rugby after the break, with the pack digging deep as they looked to press the visiting defence.

The pressure reaped its reward with three superb individual tries by Jake Hunt, Thomas Jones and Owen-Youens seeing the Eagles soar 24-5 ahead.

After being on the rampage, their momentum was disrupted with two yellow cards that saw Oswestry reduced to 13 men for 10 minutes.

With their numerical advantage, Manchester perked up and pushed for reply, which they finally got, with an unconverted try.

But Oswestry held firm, and once their two sin-binned players returned to the fore for the last five minutes, they saw out the encounter.

Long trek fruitless as Town fall to defeat

Carlisle City 2 FC Oswestry 1

A LONG trek to Cumbria brought no reward for FC Oswestry Town who returned from Carlisle City with a 2-1 loss as their slide continued in the Hallmark North West Counties League division one.

It was the fifth straight defeat for Town, who have slipped to 15th in the table, and have now been overtaken by their conquerors Carlisle in the table.

Boss Mike Barton, whose side face a tough trek back north to take on Holker Old Boys on Thursday night, admitted it was a scrappy match with little to savour for the fans.

Jordan Atkinson gave the home side a 12th minute lead. But chances were in short supply.

Town picked up in the second half, and but conceded a poor goal when a back pass from Richard Williams-Cooke was miskicked by keeper Richard Cowdry, the ball eventually being put in from close in by Michael Reed.

Millington scored for the second game running for a consolation.

Both teams finished with 10 men, the home side losing their substitute for kicking out, while Ollie Jones picked up his second booking.

ST MARTINS Village were again among the goals as they consolidated their position in the top half of the Mercian Regional League division one with a 7-3 romp at Albrighton.

After crushing St Georges United 13-1 the week before, the villagers were again among the goals to consolidate seventh spot.

FC OSWESTRY Town Reserves remain one place below in eighth after their 2-0 verdict at Denso.

Ali the difference as Staffs win opener

Cricket by Stuart Dunn

SHROPSHIRE'S director of cricket Karl Krikken believes there's no reason why his side should not recover quickly from an opening defeat in the Unicorns Knockout Trophy as they get ready for Sunday's trip to Cheshire.

A fine display from Staffordshire captain Kadeer Ali, who took three wickets before hitting an unbeaten 80, helped the visitors pull off an eight-wicket win at Shrewsbury's London Road ground last Sunday.

But Shropshire still have three group games left as they start to prepare for Sunday's clash at Oxton in the 50-over competition.

Matches with Wales at Oswestry and last year's winners Herefordshire at Brockhampton will follow next month.

Krikken said: "Cheshire are always a decent one-day side. One of the lads that I had at Derby, Wayne White, is there."

"I'm looking forward to it and there's no reason why we can't go on and win the three games that are left - but we've got to be better than we have with the bat."

Opener Ollie Westbury, the Shrewsbury batsman, top-scored for Shropshire with 62 and Krikken stressed his performance was one of the day's positives.

Fielding

"There were some good performances," he said. "Westbury played quite nicely and I thought our bowling was quite good and I thought our fielding was decent."

"I'm not so disappointed because I think there was structure there, so going into the game against Cheshire we've got a few positives and we'll take it with us."

Shropshire were unable to build on a promising start after being asked to bat first by Staffordshire.

Led by a half century from England under-19 opener Westbury, Shropshire looked set to post a competitive total when well placed at 105-1.

But Staffordshire's bowlers had other ideas, taking the last nine wickets for the addition of just 55 runs as Shropshire were dismissed for 160 off the first ball of the 47th over.

Ali then cracked an unbeaten 80 as Staffordshire, in reply, raced to 161-2 inside 33 overs to wrap up victory by 5pm.

Krikken added: "It's obviously disappointing



Steve Leach keeps the board ticking over



Ollie Westbury on his way to 62 off 101 balls

but it's not the end of our one-day season, it's the first game in. We've played a side that got to the final last year and lost to Herefordshire.

"From where we were, for the first three-fifths of our innings, everything was going to plan, 105-1 with more than 20 overs left. You expect to get over 200 at least, 220, 240, and then it's a decent total to defend, but unfortunately that wasn't the case and it was just a bit tentative really."

There was no sign of the collapse to come when Westbury and Steve Leach put on 57 for the first wicket before skipper Leach was trapped lbw by Dan Richardson for 30.

Worcestershire prospect Westbury was joined in the middle by Charlie Home and together they took the score into three figures before Shifnal all-rounder Home was bowled by Alex Thomson for 17.

That prompted a flurry of wickets with Will Parton and David Wainwright both quickly removed by Ali (3-

29) before key man Westbury, having hit 62 from 101 balls, was stumped by Tom Ball off Thomson to leave Shropshire in trouble at 119-5.

Jack McIver was the only other home batsman to reach double figures before he was last man out for 22, bowled by Brinder Phagura (3-32).

Shropshire needed quick wickets when Staffordshire began their reply but openers Ali and Aneesh Kapil had other ideas as they quickly put 50 on the board within eight overs. Young Shrewsbury all-rounder Dillon Pennington, one of three debutants in the 11th over, bowled ex-Surrey man Kapil for 23.

Staffordshire lost a second wicket with the score on 95 when Home took a catch at mid-wicket off left-arm spinner Wainwright to get rid of Tim Maxfield for 16.

But the classy Ali, supported by Paul Wilshaw (29no), ended unbeaten on 80, from 96 balls, hitting three sixes and six fours.

Llanymynech open with brace of wins

LLANYMNECH A maintained their rousing start to the Oswestry and District Bowling League division one after making it two wins out of two with an 8-2 success at Corwen A. Mark Kirkham was their best with a dominant 21-12 card while James Candler as the visitors secured a 145-131 verdict.

They are a point behind early leaders Llangollen A who are setting a hot pace at the top of the first division with a 7-3 (144-135) success at Johnstown B.

Their second win put them six points clear of third placed CHIRK A who thumped Flexys A 9-1 (163-94).

After being without a match on the opening night, WHITTINGTON A suffered a 7-3 (147-129) reverse at CRIFTINS A. After their opening night loss to Llanymynech, defending champions Ceiriog Valley A are up and running with an 8-2 (151-121) home beating of Johnstown A.

GEORGE lifted themselves among the division two leaders with a 9-1 home romp against Llangollen A. Now lying second after two games, newly promoted George had three single figure winners with Merv Roberts (21-6) leading the way as the sec-

Bowls

ond placed hosts cruised home 163-87. CHURCH B are looking up with a 7-3 beating of CRIFTINS B to gain their first win of the campaign.

After being whitewashed by the club's A team in the opener, the second string hit back with a 152-124 success.

WESTON RHYN A, who have dropped down a level this season, suffered their first loss when downed 7-3 (164-118) away to LLANRHAEDAIR A.

After their opening night victory, CHURCH A suffered an 8-2 (142-118) reverse at ELESMERES A whose Joy Payne led the way to five. Steve Lewis and Steve Williams both won 21-8 for the Church.

Results:

Division Three: Ceiriog Valley C 10 (168) Church C 0 (99), Chirk B 6 (131) Johnstown C 4 (137), Johnstown D 9 (165) Fox Lane 1 (102), Ellens B 6 (150) Criftins C 4 (135), Black Lion 10 (168) Ceiriog Valley B 0 (96), Bersham A 8 (158) Langollen B 2 (111).

Division Four: Llanrhed A 3 (139) Whittington E 7 (140), Overton B 3 (17) Plas Kynaston B 3 (127), Llanrhed A 9 (152) Chirk B 2 (111) Llanrhed A 7 (147) Whittington A 3 (129), Corwen A 6 (163) Flexys A 1 (94), Criftins A 7 (147) Whittington C 8 (129), Corwen A 13 (163) Llanrhed A 8 (145), Ceiriog Valley A 8 (151) Johnstown A 2 (121).

Division Five: Criftins E 9 (167) Johnstown E 1 (116), Ye Olde Croft B 3 (124) Corwen B 2 (132), Pontcysyllte B 9 (165) Llanrhed A 1 (119), Whittington B 7 (145) Llanrhed A 7 (134) Pontcysyllte C 8 (143), Llanrhed C 10 (168) Criftins D 0 (71), Church B 5 (130) Chirk C 5 (129).

Division Six: Pontcysyllte B 4 (131), Llanrhed B 5 (136) Pontcysyllte C 5 (133), Whittington E 7 (136) Overton C 3 (136), Llanrhed A 7 (146) Church E 3 (127).

three of the Oswestry and District Bowling League after securing a 6-4 home victory over Criftins C. The Meresiders took the aggregate 140-135.

FOX LANE crashed 9-1 (165-102) at Johnstown D, while CHURCH C fared even worse as they slumped 10-0 (168-99) away to Ceiriog Valley C.

There was a perfect 10 for BLACK LION who slumped off their first night loss with a whitewash of Ceiriog Valley B, taking the aggregate by 168-96.

Newly promoted IFTON set the pace in division four with two straight wins.

Results:

Division Three: Ceiriog Valley C 10 (168) Church C 0 (99), Chirk B 6 (131) Johnstown C 4 (137), Johnstown D 9 (165) Fox Lane 1 (102), Ellens B 6 (150) Criftins C 4 (135), Black Lion 10 (168) Ceiriog Valley B 0 (96), Bersham A 8 (158) Langollen B 2 (111).

Division Four: Llanrhed A 3 (139) Whittington E 7 (140), Overton B 3 (17) Plas Kynaston B 3 (127), Llanrhed A 9 (152) Chirk B 2 (111) Llanrhed A 7 (147) Whittington C 8 (143), Llanrhed C 10 (168) Criftins D 0 (71), Church B 5 (130) Chirk C 5 (129).

Division Six: Pontcysyllte B 4 (131), Llanrhed B 5 (136) Pontcysyllte C 5 (133), Whittington E 7 (136) Overton C 3 (136), Llanrhed A 7 (146) Church E 3 (127).

Powell picks up European bronze medal

POWYS' Natalie Powell has won the -75kg bronze medal at the European judo championships in Poland by beating the Netherlands' Karen Stevenson.

It was the second bronze medal of Powell's career, after missing out at Rio 2016.

Powell secured her semi-final slot by beating Slovenia's Klara Apotekar.

But she lost to world number one Guusje Steenhuis before beating Stevenson to take home bronze.

The Olympics had ended in disappointment as Powell lost in the quarter-finals to Audrey Tcheumeo of France and then was not able to come through the repechage.

Sport

OSWESTRY SPORTS DESK 01743 283301

Rugby:
Three cheers for
triple success – P39

Cricket:
Shropshire feel the
force of Ali – P38



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Boss aims high after strong finish

ST MARTINS boss Dan Stevens believes the club can go from strength to strength after finishing their West Midlands League division one campaign on a high.

Having been struggling at the foot of the table earlier in the season, the Saints turned it around with eight wins in their last 14 games to finish a creditable eighth in the table.

And Stevens, whose side defeated Darlaston 4-1 in their last fixture, is now looking for the club to challenge the top teams in the league next season.

"With the right squad in place, there's no reason why we can't compete at the top and try to win the league next year, that's the aim," he said.

"I'll be looking at getting the right players in during the summer and continue the momentum we have built up this season.

"From where the club was at the bottom of the table, to finish eighth is a testament to the effort of the team who have pulled together.

"Saturday's game against Darlaston was in the balance at 1-1 with 25 minutes to go, but the players again showed character to get the right result."

BERRIEW manager Dave Jones hopes his side's timely 2-1 win over Spar Mid Wales League division one champions Rhayader Town can augur well in the pursuit of cup success in the coming weeks.

"That result means we are all but guaranteed to finish third in the league which is an outstanding effort in our first season back up in Spar One," he said.

"We started the season with the hope and aim of breaking into the top six, and we have far exceeded that by finishing third, and for a period challenging for the title.

"Whatever happens we have had an excellent season. However, it is not over yet as we still have the semi-finals of the League Cup and Montgomeryshire Cup to play.

"If we can add some silverware by winning at least one of those cups then an excellent season will become an outstanding one."

Davies runs into Games contention

LONG distance runner Andy Davies is poised to earn a call-up for the Wales team in the Commonwealth Games after finishing a terrific 16th in the London Marathon.

The Fordace ace produced a top notch run to clock two hours 15 minutes and 11 seconds to go below the required criteria of two hours 16 minutes to be considered.

The former Welshpool footballer must now wait for his selection to be confirmed for the Australian Gold Coast next year where he will hope to make his second appearance for Wales at a Commonwealth Games.

The London Marathon was won by Kenyan Daniel Wanjiru, 24, in 2:05:56, with Kenenisa Bekele of Ethiopia second.

Kenya's Mary Keitany broke Paula Radcliffe's record to win the women's race in a time of 2:17:01.

Pace against time for Pakistani bowler

Cricket by John Bridgwater

PAKISTANI paceman Sadaf Hussain is facing a race against time to make Oswestry's Birmingham League division two opener away to C&R Hawks on Saturday.

Spearing the attack, the quickie could prove a key addition as the Morda Road side look to regain their place in the first division.

The 27-year-old left-armers, who stands 6ft 5ins, plays for Rawalpindi and has taken 311 First Class wickets at an average of 18.18, with five wickets in an innings 22 times and 10 wickets in a match on five occasions.

Officials hope he will be involved this weekend, but admit a doubt hangs over his availability as

he waits to gain his visa from the British Embassy in Pakistan. Hussain has featured for Pakistan A and has been on the verge of selection for the full Test team. He has toured the West Indies with the Pakistan one-day international and T20 squad.

Another exciting addition will be teenage allrounder Roman Walker from Marchwiel and Wrexham, who figured for Glamorgan against Nottinghamshire in pre-season.

Batsman Chris Woodcock has also joined along with the return of highly-rated wicketkeeper Dean

Suter from Shelton. Newly-promoted Montgomery and Welshpool get their seasons under way this weekend. Both have home encounters in the Hensalls Shropshire Cricket League division one.

Monty, who went up as champions, entertain Shrewsbury side Beacon on Saturday, while runners-up Pool welcome Forton. In the 12-team league, they will join Knockin & Kinnerley.

In division two, ELLESMORE open with a trip to Prees. CAE GLAS, who have stepped down to division three, welcome Calverhall to Gaterac. The Glas warmed up with a pre-season win against Guisfield and Llandriniog, reaching their 80-run target in the 20th of 30 overs.

SAINTS TARGET TRIPLE TREBLE

Football by John Bridgwater

HOLDERS The New Saints target a place in the history books when they take on Bala Town in the final of the JD Welsh Cup final at the Bangor University Stadium on Sunday.

As well as aiming to lift the trophy for a fourth successive season, the Saints can also clinch an unprecedented third successive treble having also landed the Welsh Premier title and Nathaniel MG Cup earlier this year.

Standing in their way of a 'treble' treble will be third placed Bala Town who, by a quirk of the fixture list, provided the opposition for TNS' final league action last Saturday.

With both sides having one eye on their Welsh Cup showdown, the Saints ran out 6-4 winners with Scott Quigley completing a hat-trick as the Saints took their league goal tally to 101.

Manager Craig Harrison says his side will again be attack minded for Sunday's final against a Bala side who have never defeated the Saints in competitive action.

Fantastic

For the final, the Saints will have no qualms about returning to a stadium where they suffered a rare 3-0 loss to Bangor City a few weeks back.

The final, which will be refereed by Llanrhedyn Huw Jones, will be screened live on S4C, with a 2pm kick off.

While the Saints have lifted the trophy for the past three seasons, and six times in all, Bala will be making their first appearance in the final after falling at the semi-final stage three times.

Bala's last appearance in the Welsh Cup semi-final was back in 2014 when losing 2-1 to TNS.

They also lost 4-0 to the Saints in 2012, and 1-0 to Port Talbot the year before that.

Meanwhile, TNS chief Harrison is one of the names linked with the managerial vacancy in his native north East of England at Hartlepool United. The 39-year-old last season missed out on the role at hometown club Gateshead.

Xavi impresses on England duty



Xavi Clarke, Steve Aston and Jack Haynes on the tour to Sri Lanka

YOUNG Oswestry all rounder Xavi Clarke is looking ahead to a successful summer after impressing with England cricketers.

The 16-year-old Oswestry batsman and wrist spinner was a member of the first ever Bunbury/ECB under 16 squad to go on an overseas tour which visited Sri Lanka recently.

Xavi, a member of the Worcestershire Academy, was picked for the tour and played in all four games after his performances at the Bunbury Festival last summer which marked the 30th anniversary

of the event. Tour manager for the trip was Steve Aston, who has been involved in cricket in Shropshire for more than 40 years.

He said: "It was a really good trip and Xavi and the rest of the boys were a real credit in the way they behaved and bonded and represented English cricket."

"It was a steep learning curve with only one training session before we were straight into the action without really having time to acclimatise."

After losing the first two

games, the Bunbury XI won the third with Xavi's skipper and fellow Worcestershire Academy member Jack Haynes scoring 93. But they were beaten in the fourth game after they were asked to field first in searing heat that sapped the energy of the players, some of whom had been suffering from a sickness bug.

Aston added: "The tour was a big success both on and off the field. Although the results didn't go our way it was a great experience and gave the boys an idea of what they need to do to get to the next level by learning to play in all conditions."

Waiting game for Llanfair in battle to beat the drop

LLANFAIR United are facing an anxious wait to discover whether they will survive in the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance for another season.

The Mount Field side finished fourth bottom after their 2-0 home loss to Powys rivals Guisfield in their last game, Adam Jenkins scoring both goals for the visitors just before half-time.

However, they still have a chance of escaping a drop if one of the three feeder leagues fail to provide a team to be promoted to the Cymru Alliance in the next few weeks.

The fact Llanfair finished above Mold Alex on goal difference after their basement rivals lost 2-0 at home to Holwell Town could yet prove crucial if only three teams are relegated.

"With them kicking off an hour earlier, we knew at half time against Guisfield that we were going to finish fourth bottom whatever our result," said Llanfair manager Rhys Stephens.

"We've given ourselves the best possible chance in the situation we're in. It's now a case of waiting and see. Finishing fourth with the resources we've got, I'd be disappointed to go down. We can only hope now that one team does not come up from the feeder leagues."

Teams finishing in the top two places in the Spar Mid Wales League, the Welsh National League and the Welsh Alliance are all eligible for promotion. However, it still depends on whether they wish to step up a level or whether their grounds pass the required criteria.

Match report on page 39.

Eagles take heart from improved rugby showings

THEY may be heading for the drop, but Oswestry's rugby players can take some solace from their end of season form.

Having waited until March before notching their first win in the South Lancs and Cheshire One, the Eagles have now ended their campaign with another victory.

That was not enough to take them off the foot of the table, but they can take plenty of satisfaction from their improved displays.

First up was a 25-24 success against Old Anselmians, before overcoming fellow league newcomers Manchester Medics 24-12 last weekend.

First team coach Dan Samuels was given special praise for his effort and commitment during a testing campaign that saw the often depleted Eagles competing against the odds in several difficult games.

Although there is no more league action this term, Oswestry will be hosting touch rugby at Granville Park every Tuesday and Thursday evenings during the summer from 6.45-8pm.

Although this will involve current players, the Eagles will welcome all new players, male or female of all ages, who wish to join in.

For match report see page 38.

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Published by the Oswestry Chronicle and printed by Shropshire Newspapers Limited, Ketley, Telford. Registered at the P.O. as a newspaper. Price when sold 70p

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